





## Poles plotted to kidnap and beat up Hess

POLISH servicemen based in wartime Britain plotted a raid on the secret "Camp Z" where Rudolf Hess was being held, the latest unclassified papers released by the Public Record Office show. The plot was uncovered by British intelligence.

Camp Z was Mytchett Place in Farnborough, Hampshire, surrounded by barbed wire and protected by armed guards. The Polish plot was to kidnap Hess, Hitler's deputy, and beat him up in revenge for Germany's "ravaging" of Poland.

The second and last batch of Hess papers to be released underline the fears of those responsible for him that the tight security and secrecy surrounding his arrival and detention in Britain might be breached.

In a letter dated May 30 1942, Major Loxley, private secretary to Sir Anthony Cadogan, permanent under secretary at the Foreign Office,

expressed his concern at the size of the guard at Camp Z. "We have more than once had evidence that certain members of the allied forces stationed in this country were hatching a scheme to raid the camp and kidnap the prisoner," he wrote. Another letter dated two days earlier from an official identified only by his initials refers to a scheme to break into the camp "and to beat up our prisoner".

The rumours of a plot had been circulating for a long time, after Hess's dramatic flight to Scotland in June 1941. A letter from the War Office to the Foreign Office in July 1941 reveals that the intelligence services had been investigating the rumours and had discovered the existence of a Polish plot. The War Office letter asks if Sir

Stewart Menzies, chief of M16, could be told to "get the Security Service (M15) to keep an eye on the conspirators as far as possible".

Concern about Hess's safety is expressed in dramatic language in a letter from the War Office to Cadogan: "Would it be wise or not to let him [Hess] know... that all the barbed wire, sentries, motorbikes, aeroplanes etc are for his personal protection, and most certainly not directed against him... we have in this country many people from the countries he and his Führer have ravaged, whose greatest desire is to tear him to bits".

The authorities believed that the Polish plotters were ignorant of the whereabouts of Camp Z. However, several reports highlight the case of

"a mysterious, loitering man", who rode by the camp on his bicycle, apparently showing undue interest. He was stopped and questioned. "His explanation to various questions was regarded as not satisfactory," one document says.

Hess, too, feared for his life. At one point, he asked for a gun "for self-defence", although he admitted that he would use it to shoot himself. He was told that "the British government was very short of guns at present".

Hess's mental state dominates much of the released records. The government's stated view was that Hess was "at all relevant times responsible for his actions and is also certainly able at the moment to plead in a court of law".

On that basis, Hess was sent to Nuremberg for trial as a war criminal. Had he been certified as insane during his detention in Britain, the government would have come



Menzies: M16 head urged to watch plotters under pressure from Berlin to repatriate him under the Geneva Convention. Yet the psychiatrists dealing with him at Camp Z were convinced that he had a permanent mental disorder. A report by J R Rees, army consultant psychiatrist, concluded that, if he had been a civilian, he would have been

certified. During one of his "claired moods", Hess talked of "grandiose plans" to build homes in Scotland, Sussex and Germany.

The secrecy over his arrival in Britain is highlighted by the government's decision over how best to exploit his case. Eventually a "whisper propaganda" campaign was launched to keep the Germans guessing about what he had revealed.

The Public Record Office is considering the introduction of admission charges to boost its revenues. Search charges may also be charged at its branches in Kew, southwest London, and Chancery Lane, central London, as part of a five-year plan to improve its service and running.

The office already charges for photocopying and other specialist services. It abandoned search fees in the late 1950s because the system cost more to administer than was raised.

## Murdered men were informers says IRA

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE IRA yesterday tried to justify the murder of three of its members by accusing them of having been M15 and RUC special branch informers and having taken part in the murder of a Portadown woman.

The bodies of the three men, named by the group as Aiden Starns, John Dignam and Gregory Burns, all from Portadown, were being recovered by the army from separate roadblocks in south Armagh, where they were dumped on Wednesday night.

They disappeared from their homes several days ago and were found hooded, partially clothed, bruised from beatings, and shot in the back of the head.

The killings, the first in Northern Ireland for eight weeks, were widely condemned by politicians in Britain and Ireland, including by John Major and Albert Reynolds, the Irish prime minister.

Mr Major, who yesterday welcomed the recent breakthrough in the Stormont talks, told the Commons that the discovery of the bodies and the admission of responsibility for their deaths by the IRA, "demonstrates yet again the true nature of terrorism". In Northern Ireland, Seamus Mallon, the SDLP MP for Newry and Armagh, said that the killings were barbarous and obscene.

In explaining why the men were killed, the IRA issued an unusually detailed statement to a Belfast journalist, saying that two of the murdered men had worked as informers for RUC special branch and one for military intelligence. The

group said that all three were involved in the murder of Margaret Perry, 26, who disappeared from her home in Portadown, co. Armagh, more than a year ago and whose body was found in a shallow grave in co. Sligo on Wednesday. The discovery was made after police in the Irish republic were tipped off by the IRA through an intermediary.

The statement said that Miss Perry, who is believed to have had a relationship with Burns, had been killed because they feared she would expose their activities to other members of the IRA. It also said the men had initially come under suspicion in the autumn of 1990, because of their alleged involvement in racketeering and extortion.

According to reports in Belfast yesterday Starns, 29, was sentenced in 1983 to eight years for possession of explosives. Dignam, 32, was sentenced to 12 years in 1980 for causing an explosion, possession of a firearm and wounding with intent.

Burns had no terrorist convictions. He was a brother of Sean Burns who was shot dead in 1982 by police near Lurgan, co. Armagh, in an incident later investigated by John Stalker the former Deputy Chief Constable of Manchester, which became known as the "shoot to kill affair".

The IRA said that Burns had assisted M15 since 1979 and had even supplied information to the security forces about the movements of his brother prior to his death. They said he was paid £200 a month to supply information.

## Ulster talks 'doomed'

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE talks on the future of Northern Ireland were doomed to fail and were encouraging the IRA in its campaign of violence, a Friends of the Union meeting was told last night.

Twenty-four hours after Unionist leaders agreed to talk with the Irish government, Conor Cruise O'Brien dismissed the initiative as a hopeless venture because the objectives of unionists and nationalists were opposed and incompatible.

He said the talks had continued for such a long time only because each side was manoeuvring to ensure that the blame for their inevitable breakdown would rest on the other. "These talks, which are supposed to be part of a peace process, are actually damaging to the prospects for peace. The assiduity with which the British government has promoted and sustained these unprofitable talks is sending the most undesirable of all possible messages to the IRA. That message is that the British government is desperately anxious to rid itself of Northern Ireland."

Dr Cruise O'Brien, who was giving the second Ian Gow Memorial Lecture, said that government policy encouraged the IRA to keep up the killing.



Strategic planning: Ian Roxburgh and daughters Sarah, 10, left, and Maddy, 12, preparing to invade France.

## French blockade makes stiff upper-lip tremble with rage

THE charm of the passionate Gallic temperaments that had initially lured Alan Gordon to France for his holiday had, by yesterday, worn thin. Driving onto English soil after a delay of two days spent weaving a tortuous route around lorry blockades, he was infuriated by French behaviour and the impotence of the police.

"These routiers are the most cynical lot I have ever come across," he said. "It was pure anarchy. They were utterly indiscriminate in their blockades and the whole region was simply paralysed."

For him and his wife, Patsy, the journey from Dover to their home in Northumberland would be in stark contrast to the drive from the south of France. "They were everywhere, simply choking the heart out of every village. The police can do nothing. I felt heart-sick and angry for people stuck with children."

As exhausted holidaymakers returned yesterday, some of them days late, the extent of the lorry drivers' action

became clear. Most towns and many villages were blocked, leaving a gap for one car to pass through at a time.

The British stiff upper-lip had given way to direct action in at least one town. Angered by the delays, a group of British motorists, with the help of some Belgians, blocked the road, to the frustration of the French. "It took two hours, but they got the message and relented," Mr Gordon said.

Coach loads of tired package tourists arriving from Spain and harassed-looking parents with fractious children were all in less than holiday mood reaching Dover. Brian Kell, from Newcastle upon Tyne, was two and a half days late returning from the Costa Brava. "We missed

out on all our scheduled meal stops as the driver routed us through the villages and over the mountains to avoid getting stuck. It was awful."

In spite of the warnings, many people were still heading across the Channel yesterday, full of hope. There were no notices at Dover or information concerning likely delays in France.

Ian Roxburgh, his wife and three daughters left Newcastle upon Tyne unaware of the trouble. By the time they reached Dover, they knew. "They're a bunch of anarchists and it's time we booted them out of the Common Market," he said.

With 44,000 passengers a day passing through Dover, the harbour board said it was unable to tell whether the French trouble had stopped people sailing. Normally just over 30 per cent of traffic is unbooked and yesterday there was plenty of activity at the sales counters.

France gridlocked, page 1  
Being beastly, page 11

## Stranded parts shut car factory

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

PEUGEOT's car factory at Coventry was shut down last night as components were stranded on trucks in France. More than 2,000 workers have been laid off and the factory at Ryton will not reopen until Monday, providing supplies get through over the weekend.

Production of more than 500 cars worth £4.5 million at showroom prices will be lost, although assembly line workers will be paid for their extra day off today. Most of the cars made at Ryton are exported to France.

The company is also a victim of its own efficiency, having adopted Japanese-style assembly procedures of "just in time" delivery. No stocks of components are kept on the factory floor as in the past. Parts are ordered as they are needed, for delivery in time for final assembly.

STOP PRESS FRANCE - WITH THE TIMES AND LBC

Each week throughout the summer, *The Times* and LBC will bring you news of last minute bargains available for travellers to France. The latest information on bookings, flights, traffic problems and holiday ideas

AA ADVICE LINE  
0836 401904

By Lucy Rock  
The AA advises drivers to keep off main routes and stick to "D" roads to avoid the worst of the blockades by farmers and lorry drivers. Disruption is still likely, so allow plenty of time. Suburbs of Paris, Lille, Lyons, Toulouse and Bordeaux are badly affected, as is the A26 between Calais and Paris. Petrol is scarce in some areas, especially the Rhone valley. Ring the AA advice line on 0836 401904.

THE TIMES  
PASSPORT TO  
France

LBC NEWS TALK 97.3

FLIGHTS

Air France and BA advise those flying to Charles de Gaulle airport to take the RER fast train to central Paris, not the coach. Air UK has plenty of space over the weekend to Paris from Stansted, Leeds, Newcastle and Aberdeen. Air France reports heavy bookings to

Paris and Bordeaux from Heathrow, but there are unsold seats to Paris from London City Airport and to Nice from Heathrow. BA has seats next week to Paris, Lyon and Nice from Heathrow.

FERRIES

Sally Ferries has plenty of space in both directions between Ramsgate and Dunquerque on all days. P&O has seats from Dover and Portsmouth this weekend. Brittany Ferries has limited cabin space on night sailings but there is space on day services. Hoverspeed has little car space left this morning and Saturday morning. There is space on crossings this afternoon, Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday.

RATES

The franc has fallen against sterling over the last week, according to Travelers, with exchange rates between

9.40 and 9.43 when buying and 10.26 and 10.29 when selling. *The Times* journalist George Hill will be interviewed by Angela Rippon on LBC NEWS TALK's Drive-time programme next Thursday, July 9, at 6.50pm.

SNCF has seats on all trains from Boulogne to Avignon, Bordeaux, Fréjus, Narbonne and Toulouse over the weekend. The train from Boulogne to Brive is fully booked today.

Paris Travel Service is offering trips to Paris on its Seacat Rail Express, plus two nights' accommodation, for £85 per person. Thomas Cook, with Eurosites, has two-week camping holidays for £439 for up to six people in west Brittany.

Passport to France  
L&T section, page 4

## Thames Water gave £50,000 to Tories

Thames Water, privatised two and a half years ago, paid £50,000 to the Conservative party just before the election to try to help the party to victory, according to the latest report and accounts (Martin Waller writes).

The payment is believed to be the first such notified by any of the recently-privatised utilities which have been in the headlines recently for high profits and rising executive pay packages. Ann Taylor, shadow minister for environmental protection, whose brief includes the water industry, said that the payment was insensitive at a time when Thames Water customers are facing record price increases and the threat of compulsory domestic metering.

Sir Roy Watts, the recently-knighted chairman of Thames Water, tells shareholders in the accounts the board considered that the return of a Conservative government was in the interests of the company and its shareholders. Such political payments are legally required to be notified to shareholders in the annual report. The Thames board was unavailable for comment. Last month Thames Water announced an 11 per cent rise in profits, to £236 million.

## Security guard killed

A security guard died in hospital yesterday after being shot in the head while collecting cash from the town hall at Farnworth, near Bolton, Lancashire. Police said that they were seeking two raiders whom they described as armed and dangerous. The raiders attacked the security guard, who worked for Armaguard, was leaving the town hall. One escaped on foot, the other on a motor cycle, avoiding attempts by the guard's colleagues to ram the vehicle with their security van. Police sealed off the area and called in a helicopter to help in the hunt for the men. The identity of the dead man was not being released until relatives had been contacted.

## Blair and Brown stand

Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, the leading talents in Labour's younger generation, are to stand for election to the party's national executive in a move that could mean the biggest shakeup for years in the party's high command. They will join Neil Kinnock, soon to stand down as leader, in vying for places on the party's ruling body. They will together work for the process of modernising policies and organisation begun under Mr Kinnock to carry on under John Smith. Mr Smith and Mr Kinnock are aware of their decision to stand and welcome the move. Mr Brown is expected to become shadow chancellor in Mr Smith's new line-up and Mr Blair shadow home secretary.

## Job offer 'suspicious'

The father and boy friend of Lynne Rogers told Lewes Crown Court that they had been worried about the bogus job interview that lured her to her death. Derek Rogers said he told her that he was "very concerned" and that the offer "didn't sound right". Spencer Clark said that he was "very suspicious" and urged her to take care. Mr Clark, 25, a telephone sales supervisor from Beckenham, Kent, told the jury that the prospect of a £14,000-a-year job had clouded Lynne's judgment. Her previous salary was £5,000. Miss Rogers, 17, of Catford, southeast London, disappeared after going to the interview. Her strangled body was found five days later, near Rotherfield, East Sussex. Wayne Scott Singleton, 36, of Crawley, West Sussex, denies murder.

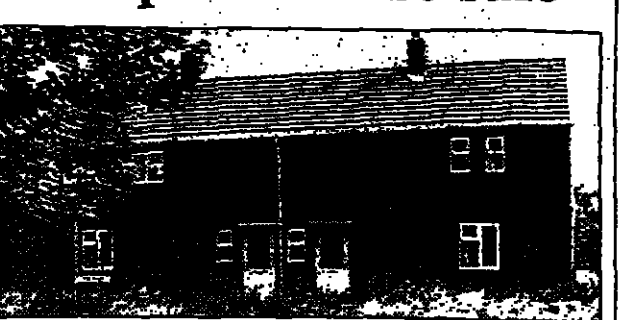
## Ex-MEP can be tried

A judge who refused to try the former Messy-side East Euro-MP Leslie Huxford on charges of dishonestly claiming parliamentary expenses was overruled by the High Court yesterday. Mr Justice Morland had said at Manchester Crown Court last September that for him to hear the prosecution against Mr Huxford, 50, and two co-defendants would infringe the European Parliament's sovereignty. Yesterday Lord Justice Leggatt and Mr Justice Pill ruled: "Member states are entitled to prosecute an MEP, or former MEP, for criminal offences of obtaining by dishonesty expenses from the Parliament." Later Mr Huxford, who was accused of obtaining by deception a cheque for £1,522, said: "I have now asked my solicitors to apply to seek leave to appeal to the House of Lords."

## Injured clerk sacked

Jill Naylor, Ganshead town council clerk, was seen on television by colleagues with Fred Bramwell, 44, her councillor lover, at the Labour party conference in Brighton last October, while she was on sick leave, a tribunal was told yesterday. Mrs Naylor, 26, a divorcee, spent four nights at social evenings 400 miles from home after telling housing department managers she was recovering from whiplash injuries received in a car crash. She used a letter from John McWilliam, Labour MP for Blaydon, to try to keep her £8,000-a-year job. He said that he believed it was better for her to stay in Brighton recovering from the accident rather than stay at home where she could be harassed by her former husband. Mrs Naylor, of Swalewell, Ganshead, Tyne & Wear, claims unfair dismissal. The hearing continues.

## Half-price house sale



Seventy houses are to be sold at nearly half-price. The former RAF houses, above, will be priced from about £18,000 in what estate agents hope will be a swift sale starting in the next few weeks. The houses, in the former RAF camp at North Cotes, Lincolnshire, all have new roofs, uPVC double-glazing and central heating. Most have three bedrooms. The average price for a three-bedroom house in the area is £32,000. The RAF has sold the base to a firm that is developing it as a small village. Roy Amour, chairman of the Royal Air Forces Association in Hull, condemned the sale, saying that former airmen should be given the chance to buy the houses first.

## Chess teams square up

Truro School and Nottingham High School won the semi-finals of *The Times* British Schools Chess Championship yesterday. Truro defeated the Royal Grammar School, Newcastle upon Tyne, by 3½ points to 2½, at the Charing Cross Hotel, central London. Nottingham defeated the City of London School by 4 points to 2. The final will take place at the hotel this afternoon and spectators are welcome. The championship has been a training ground for such grandmasters as Nigel Short, Jon Speelman and Julian Hodgson.

## Swedes jail fans

Four England soccer supporters were jailed by Swedish courts yesterday for offences including assault, theft and incitement to riot during the European championships. Garry Swain, 37, of Leicester, was jailed for six months for assault and Kevin Soulsby, 24, also of Leicester, for one month for attempted assault. The other two were not named. Neil Goodwin, 24, of Leichworth, Hertfordshire, went on trial accused of starting a riot at a beer tent in Malmö.

**TOMORROW'S TIMES**

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Is the law fair to divorced fathers? David Thomas meets desperate men looking for their children.

**Saturday Review**

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THE TIMES FRIDAY JULY 3 1992

## Toddler at playgroup may have killed baby

By PETER VICTOR

POLICE were last night investigating the death of a six-month-old girl found with severe head injuries at a playgroup.

The child was discovered lying by her upturned pushchair yesterday morning. One line of enquiry is that she may have been tipped out by another child. However, police have not ruled out any possibility, including foul play.

Susan Willard, wife of a committee member at the Oldbrook Centre, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, where the accident happened, said that she had been told it was possible that another child may have been responsible.

"I received a call from another member of the centre committee who told me that the baby had been left alone in another room. He said it may have been possible that a four-year-old child could have escaped from the main play area and pulled the baby

from her pram," she said. The child's mother is a helper at the group, which provides day care for 20 children aged between three and five. The sleeping child was wheeled in her pushchair into an uncarpeted room adjoining the play rooms and left there while her mother joined five other women looking after the children.

Detectives were told that the mother, whom police refuse to name, checked on her daughter shortly before 11.30am and saw that she was sleeping quietly. Minutes later, one of the four full-time staff went into the room and found the baby lying on the floor with severe head injuries. No one had heard any cries or seen anything suspicious. There was no sign of a weapon.

The baby was taken to Milton Keynes general hospital, but was certified dead shortly after her arrival. A post-mortem examination showed that her skull had been fractured. An inquest will be opened on Monday.

The man heading the investigation, Det Supt John Bound, said: "This is a particularly delicate and sensitive enquiry. I am keeping a totally open mind at this stage as to the circumstances of this baby's death. It could be an accident or it could be somebody has caused it." He said that the girl's parents were "extremely traumatised" and that the mother had been receiving medical treatment.

One officer involved in the case said: "The baby's parents, who also have a boy aged four and a daughter aged two, are in a dreadful state. We have had to interview them about the death. So far we have not spoken to the child who is thought to have caused the death."

Buckinghamshire County Council said that the playgroup, which has been operating for nine years, was registered.

## Boy takes last look at parents

By JEREMY LAURANCE  
HEALTH SERVICES  
CORRESPONDENT

A BOY aged six gazed at his mother's face for the last time yesterday before undergoing an operation for cancer which will leave him blind.

Doctors at St Bartholomew's Hospital, central London, allowed John and Susan Killen into the operating theatre so that their son Nicholas could see them before going under the anaesthetic. Surgeons operated to remove a tumour known as a retinoblastoma, a rare form of cancer of the retina.

Nicholas had an operation three years ago to remove his left eye and doctors put off surgery to remove the second for as long as possible. He has had 22 sessions of radiotherapy and six courses of chemotherapy but the treatment failed to work.

Retinoblastoma affects 40 children a year, most under the age of five, but the treatment has a high success rate if started early. Sufferers lose both eyes in only very rare cases.

Nicholas's friends gave him a boost before his surgery by helping him gain awards with his record book in church group. In the group, the Shipley Baptists Beaver Troop in West Yorkshire, helped him learn to bake, sew and make models in seven weeks instead of the normal nine months.

At their home in Saltaire, near Bradford, his sister Beverly, 17, the oldest of eight children, said: "He has been really brave. He's not complained at all. Nicholas was cheerful before the operation, joking that 'at least the sun won't get in my eyes'."



Navy lark Roedean sixth formers Lisa Benefield, left, head girl Penny Tapp, centre, and Nicola Dennes preparing for a helicopter flight back to school after a day out on HMS Andromeda. They joined the frigate at Portsmouth and sailed to Brighton

## Britain blocks attempt to lift ban on whaling

By DAVID YOUNG

BRITAIN has almost certainly ensured that the ban on commercial whaling will stay in force for at least another year.

A proposal (IWC) at the International Whaling Conference in Glasgow to adopt a new revised management plan (RMP), which uses a series of complex computer calculations and which would allow tightly controlled commercial whaling, will not be supported by Britain.

John Gummer, the agriculture and fishing minister, was criticised by Japanese whaling interests yesterday for breaking with tradition and giving a highly political opening address. The British decision, taken because the RMP does not introduce new methods of humane killing of whales which Mr Gummer

says must be developed, means it is unlikely that the proposal will be put to a vote, but sent back to IWC scientific advisers for further work.

There is little chance of IWC scientists proposing an acceptable humane method of killing whales for the issue to be put to the IWC today. This means that the ban on commercial whaling introduced in 1986 will continue. The decision will disappoint Norway and Japan who had hoped to be allowed permits to hunt for the smaller Minke whale under a tightly controlled quota system.

Norway has already said that it will restart whaling next year and could leave the IWC. There is pressure in Japan for its whaling industry to adopt a similar line to Norway, but the threat of

international trade sanctions being imposed against countries which ignore IWC rules, and the ultimate involvement of the United Nations, is likely to mean that Japan will work within the IWC to have the rules changed. The UN stepped into the environmental dispute over the use of long drift nets a year ago and forced many countries to control their use.

Norway, Iceland and the Faroe Islands have formed the North Atlantic Marine Mammals Commission, a rival organisation to the IWC. Japan plans to attend its first meeting in September at Torshavn, the capital of the Faeroes, as observers and environmentalists fear it will not be long before Japan joins and begins hunting in the North Atlantic.

## Woman staged bogus kidnap

A WOMAN pretended that she had been kidnapped and demanded a £25,000 ransom from her family, sending them a message that she would be raped and murdered if the money was not paid.

Nahed Ahmed, a shop assistant aged 25, planned the blackmail scheme with her friend Syed Ali, a married man aged 42. She wanted to punish her family for forcing her to end her two-year relationship with him, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Ahmed, of Alpertown, north-west London, and Ali, a jeweller of Harrow Weald, north-west London, admitted conspiring to blackmail in February this year. Ahmed was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment suspended for two years and put on probation. Ali was sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment, also suspended for two years, and fined £10,000.

Ahmed's mother, a widow, received the threat that her daughter would be raped and murdered in a telephone call. Mark Dennis, prosecuting, told the court. He said that the couple had hired a friend to make calls. The mother was told that her daughter's fingers would be cut off one by one and posted to her if she did not hand over the money. All the time Ms Ahmed was unharmed and in hiding. The couple abandoned the blackmail plot and she came out of hiding when they found out that the police had been called in.

Ahmed said that she had been blindfolded and kept in a bare room without any food for two days. She scratched her arms to make her allegations more credible, but police did not believe her story and she confessed.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Drink-drive mother is jailed

A mother was jailed for 28 days yesterday after being involved in a car accident while more than four times over the legal alcohol limit.

Kathleen Pickering, 31, had been driving her two children to school at the time of the crash, Camberwell Magistrates' Court, southeast London, was told.

Timothy Davidson, the stipendiary magistrate, told Pickering that she was a lethal risk to the public. A breath sample showed an alcohol content of 152 micrograms — the permitted level is 35 micrograms.

Pickering, of West Dulwich, south-east London, a senior administrator with Lambeth council, admitted driving while under the influence of excess alcohol. She was banned from driving for three years.

## Longer lives

Average male life expectancy has risen from 68 to 72 years since 1970, according to the figures from the Central Statistical Office. The figure for women has risen from 75 to 78. Twenty years ago, women outnumbered men by 1.6 million. By 1990, the difference had fallen to 1.4 million. The overall population grew by 1.8 million.

## Whisky galore

More people buy whisky in off-licences than any other alcoholic drink, according to a survey by the trade magazine *Checkout*. The five top-selling brands are Bell's whisky, Gordon's gin, Smirnoff vodka, Famous Grouse whisky and Teacher's whisky. Wines are well down the list, not being generally bought by brand name and more likely to be purchased at supermarkets or other outlets.

## Snuff box theft

Five collections of snuff boxes have been stolen from English collections in the past six months, leading weight to the theory that a "Mr Big", a crooked collector who instructs thieves to steal to order, exists. More than 400 boxes worth about £350,000 have been stolen. The latest theft, on June 20, was of 151 snuff boxes valued at £60,000, from Torre Abbey museum, Torquay.

## Crime figures to be released less often to reduce fear

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE government is to end publication of quarterly crime figures as part of a series of measures to provide the public with a better guide to the spread and intensity of crime.

In future, statistics on crime will be released every six months in a Home Office publication providing more details of regional variations, trends and a written summary which will try to analyse the figures. Each six monthly bulletin of figures gathered from the 43 police forces in England and Wales will contain a comparison with crime statistics in foreign countries, particularly in the EC.

The British Crime Survey, based on the public's actual experience of crime, is to be conducted every two years and Home Office ministers would like the study, based on public opinion polling, to become an annual exercise.

Michael Jack, a Home Office minister, said the half-yearly bulletin would provide more information. "It should

go some way to reduce the considerable and unwarranted fear of crime amongst the public generated by the current quarterly publication," he told MPs in a written Commons answer.

The first six monthly publication of crime figures with analysis and comparisons will coincide with the release in the autumn of the latest British Crime Survey based on interviews with 12,000 people earlier this year.

Ministers have been under pressure to stop the publication of quarterly crime figures since a Home Office working party on Fear of Crime, chaired by Michael Grade, recommended more than two years ago that they should be released every six months. The report aimed to encourage a more considered debate on crime and wanted to reduce the opportunity for sensational headlines that contributed little to understanding the facts of crime.

Mr Grade said that the

government's announcement was a welcome step towards greater public understanding of what lay behind crime statistics. "The existing frequency of publicity has been counterproductive, offering some of the media seemingly irresponsible opportunities to scaremonger and create unnecessary fear," he said. Senior police officers, who had become embarrassed by the figures, welcomed Mr Jack's decision but called for the British Crime Survey to be an annual exercise and for greater categorisation of crimes. Albert Pacey, chairman of the Association of Chief Police Officers' crime committee, said it was nonsense that the theft of a bottle of milk was given the same weight as a serious robbery.

Barry Sheerman, an Opposition spokesman, criticised the decision and said the government was trying to conceal the high level of crime.

Leading article, page 15

## Fairbairn puts himself in firing line

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR Nicholas Fairbairn, the Scottish Tory MP whose colourful language is matched only by his home-made tartan suits, caused uproar yesterday by branding Edwina Currie a hag and likening Westminster's 60 women MPs to a Soviet firing squad.

Sir Nicholas, who resigned as a Scottish law officer in 1982 after injudicious remarks on a rape case, encouraged his female colleagues in a lengthy dissertation on love, life and immigration policy in the latest edition of *The Spectator*.

The twice-married MP for Perth and Kinross scorned the Christian values of monogamy and fidelity and suggested that polygamy and harems would be more congenial. He bemoaned living in what he called a prim and priggish age that did not allow for infidelity, especially for those in public life. Reports that one of his

girlfriends tried to hang herself outside his London flat in 1981 had been a gross exaggeration made up by a vindictive Tory MP.

However, it was his Commons talent-spotting that provoked the biggest outcry. Mrs Currie preserved her dignity with a curt "no comment", but Teresa Gorman, Tory MP for Billericay, thought that Sir Nicholas must have loved and lost. "It is sad. I think he has been bitten by a wild woman at some stage."

In his interview, which was lubricated by swigs of Meurust ("Dutch for more lust") from a plastic beaker, the maverick MP maintained that temptation stopped at the door of the Commons chamber.

"I am delighted to have more of them [women] in the House of Commons, but they certainly do not give me feelings of femininity — and by that I don't mean



Sir Nicholas: bitten by a wild woman?

'beddable'. They lack fragrance, they're definitely not desert island material. Maybe in this day and age with all these hang-ups, they deny their femininity."

"Why has womankind given up the exaltation of herself — that attempt to attract, to adorn, to glint?

They all look as though they are from the 5th Kiev Stalinist machine-gun parade. Except for Betty Boothroyd [the Speaker]. Now she's got style, fragrance. As for Edwina Currie — well the only person who smells her fragrance is herself. I can't stand the hag."

Tony Banks, Labour MP for Newham North-West, said: "He is a creep to exclude the Speaker from his list. I have always been amazed that any woman would find Nicholas Fairbairn remotely attractive. I would rather sleep with a yak ... if I were a woman that is."

Liz Lynne, Liberal Democrat MP for Rochdale, said: "The female intake of 1992 is probably better than the male intake of his vintage. I find it something of a check for him to comment on the looks of all of us and am surprised that he has not looked at himself recently."

Parliament, page 10

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Science conquers bestseller list as *A Brief History of Time* clocks up 184 weeks in top ten hardbacks

## Hawking's history breaks time record

THE hardest task Stephen Hawking faced yesterday was coaxing his mechanical voice into pronouncing the word Guinness.

Professor Hawking was in London to receive a certificate from the Guinness Book of Records to celebrate his book, *A Brief History of Time*, spending the largest number of weeks, 184, in the top ten of the bestsellers list published by *The Sunday Times*.

In doing so, it has ousted Edith Holden's *Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady*. The next edition of the Guinness book will record Professor Hawking's feat alongside *The Road Less Travelled*, by M. Scott Peck, which remains the all-time best seller, excluding the Bible, after staying in *The New York Times* bestseller lists for 258 weeks in the 1980s.

Professor Hawking explained that his voice synthesiser, which he has used since his voice failed from motor neurone disease, pronounced Guinness as Guinness. Only by spelling it with an 'h' as Guinness, could the machine be persuaded to get it right. "Maybe it is because it is an American speech synthesiser," he said. "If only I had an Irish one..."

The room was full of smart

A temperamental voice synthesiser could not stop Professor Stephen Hawking celebrating success, Nigel Hawkes writes

and smiling men from Bantam, Professor Hawking's publishers. Mark Barty-King, managing director, who took a calculated risk by bidding £30,000 for the book in 1988, had every right to look pleased. In Britain, it has been reprinted 33 times and has sold 526,500 copies in hardback. Worldwide, it has been published in 22 languages and has sold more than five million copies.

Professor Hawking said that, when he thought of the book, he took it to Cambridge University Press, which publishes his more academic works. "They said it might sell 20,000 copies a year worldwide, but I thought a popular science book ought to reach a big audience."

He wanted it, he said, to be as popular as pop-philoso-

phy books such as *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* and to sell in airports alongside Frederick Forsyth and Jeffrey Archer. "But I never thought I would reach the Guinness Book of Records."

The record is all the more remarkable because the book has not yet been published in paperback in Britain. Bantam retained the paperback rights and, as the hardback has continued to sell, has constantly postponed paperback publication. Yesterday Mr Barty-King promised a paperback edition "in the course of 1993" but would not give a more precise date.

The mystery of the book's success continues to fascinate. It was "common supposition", Mr Barty-King said, that few of those who had bought the book had

read it, but the evidence of Professor Hawking's post-bag suggested otherwise. "Many, many people do read the book and understand it," he said. Among those present yesterday was Professor Hawking's mother Isobel, who is also fighting a disability. She is beginning to go deaf, and has responded by going to a class to learn sign language.

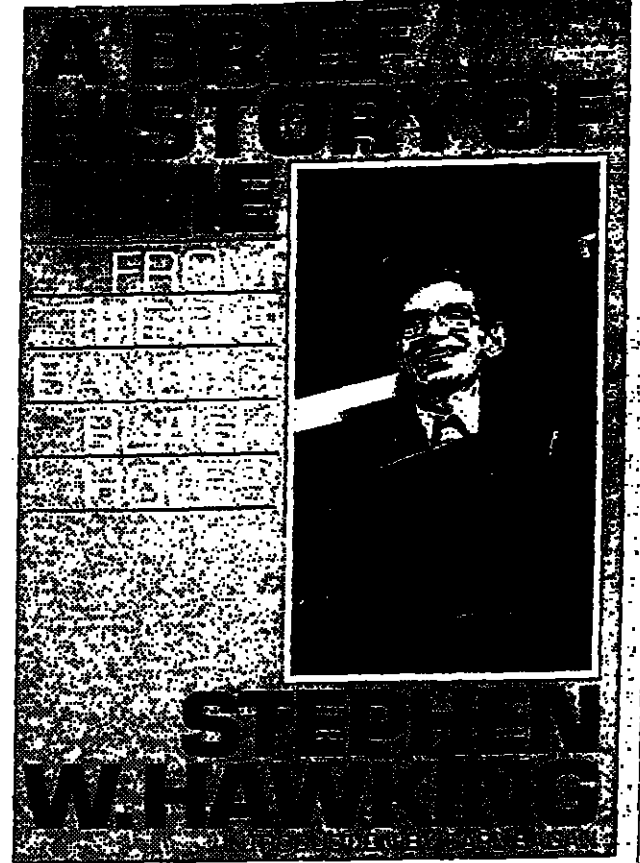
She said that she believed her son's talents as a writer had been inherited from his father, a medical scientist who had kept a journal every day of his life from the age of 14. She modestly denied making any contribution herself.

At the moment, *A Brief History of Time* is selling about 1,000 copies a week in Britain, and runs second in the lists to Andrew Morton's book about the Princess of Wales, which Mr Barty-King remarked was enjoying "absolutely remarkable success — for the moment". You had the feeling that Professor Hawking's book, which has slipped down the list once or twice in the past without ever leaving it, might yet challenge for the number one spot again.

His success had bred a degree of envy as well as admiration. There are signs



Space invader: Professor Hawking yesterday and the book that has sold five million copies in 22 languages



| BEST SELLERS                                                |              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| The Bible:                                                  | 2.6 billion  |
| The Thoughts of Chairman Mao:                               | 800 million  |
| The Truth that leads to Eternal Life (Jehovah's Witnesses): | 107 million  |
| Guinness Book of Records:                                   | 63 million   |
| Valley of the Dolls:                                        | 28.7 million |
| Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady:                         | 3 million    |

of an anti-Hawking backlash, manifested in an article in last week's *Spectator* quoting other physicists who cast doubt on the permanence of Professor Hawking's achievements. "You have to understand that first there is speculation, then there is wild specula-

tion, and then there is cosmology," one of them said. Another, Professor John Barrow of Sussex University, was quoted as saying: "In a list of the 12 best theoretical physicists this century, Steve would be nowhere near."

Nobody was rude enough to mention any of this at yesterday's party, but Professor Hawking was asked if he expected the ideas in his book to be of continuing value in thirty years' time. "I think some of the ideas we have now will be seen as wrong or confused in a hundred years, but I think most of our ideas will still fit into a

wider framework," he said, after keying the response into his computer. Then he went off to lunch with his publisher and to count his royalties — a task which by now calls for a command of numbers well into the cosmological range.

Leading article, page 15

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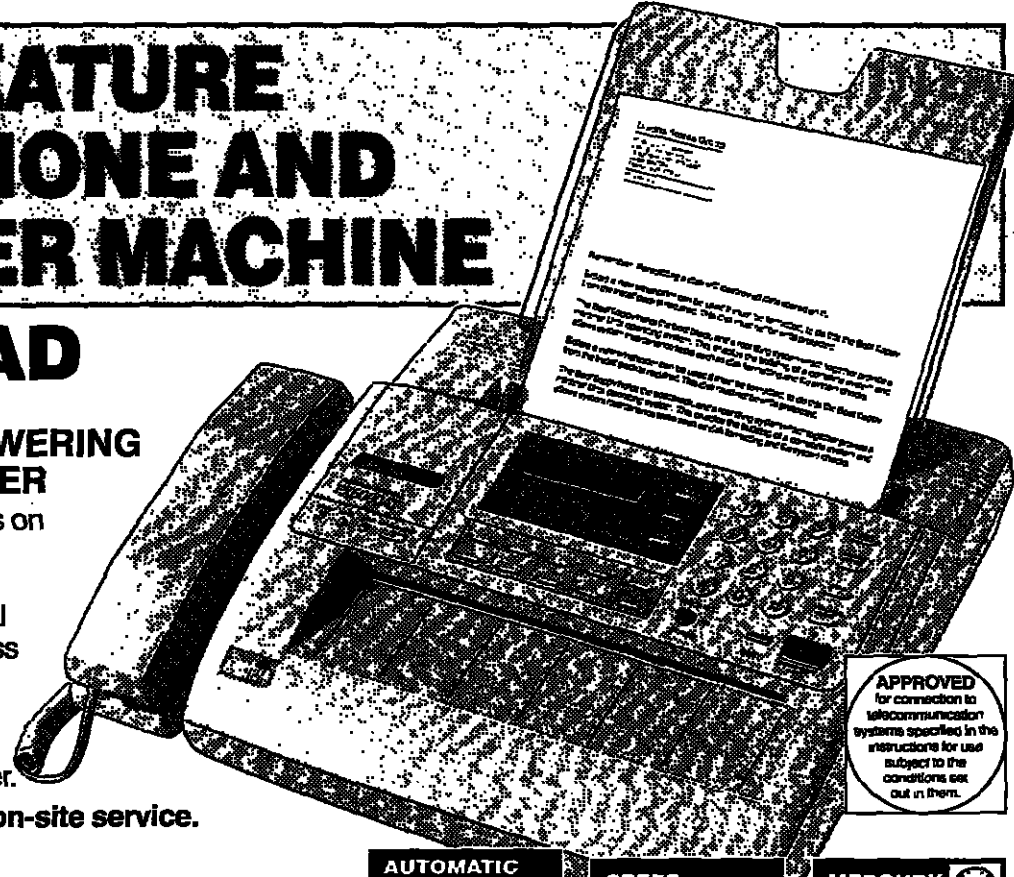
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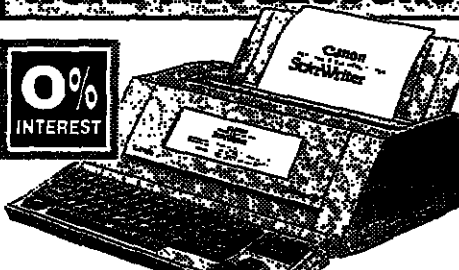


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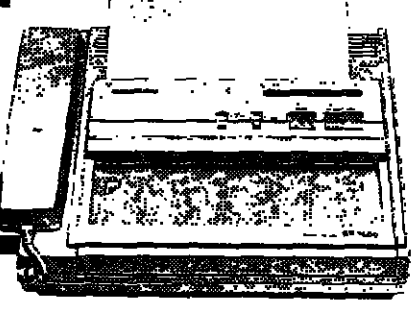
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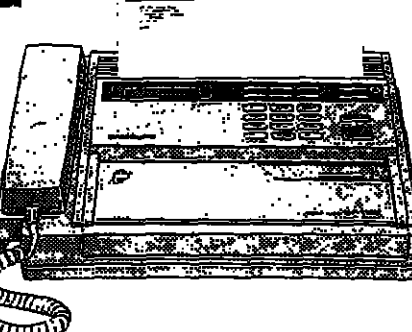
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## Star 103 beats Eton radio bid

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BARONESS Flather, the first Asian woman to become both a mayor and a peer, notched up another first yesterday by beating Eton College, Terry Wogan, Frank Bough and several other consortia to win the independent local radio licence for Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead.

Lady Flather, former mayor of Windsor and Maidenhead, will become chairman of Star 103 FM, which will offer "light adult contemporary music", local news, three hours a week of Hindustani language programmes and four hours of Asian music. She said she was determined that Asian and other minority programming not be ghettoised on the station. "I want all minority issues, whether to do with race, gender, age or disability, to be integrated into the main programming so they are aired for everyone, because these issues concern everyone," she said.

Lady Flather, a Conservative and a former member of the Commission for Racial Equality, is also a director of Meridian Broadcasting, the new ITV licensee which replaces TVS next January.

Mr Wogan's consortium was the only bidder not to include Asian programming in its application. Other bidders, with the exception of Eton College's WSM-FM, led by Sir David Nicholas, the former ITN chairman, planned significantly more Asian specialist programming than Star 103.

The station will compete with more than 18 others for just 390,000 potential listeners, including 40,000 Asians, when it begins broadcasting next spring.

## BBC stake in satellite TV widens

BY OUR MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC is to launch four new satellite channels over the next three years spanning news, documentaries, natural history and children's programming. The launches will follow the start this autumn of UK Gold, an entertainment channel showing vintage Thames Television and BBC hits.

James Arnold-Baker, chief executive of BBC Enterprises, said that the corporation had no interest in running the new channels, but would take stakes of about 20 per cent and supply most of the programme output. "We want to extract the maximum market value for our programmes, and this will be of benefit to the licence payer because money will be put back into making new programmes," Mr Arnold-Baker said. "If we want to have any control over programming on these channels, we need a boardroom presence. There is no point selling programmes to BSkyB without being able to share in its financial success."

He confirmed that negotiations were in progress about a link-up between the BBC and BSkyB's 24-hour news channel, Sky News, to create a joint European news channel. BBC News and Current Affairs would supply a significant amount of news output. In other programme areas, the BBC could start new channels with commercial partners or join existing channels such as the Children's Channel or Discovery. "There's a lot of dancing, a lot of mating going on, but no one knows who is going to end up with whom," Mr Arnold-Baker said.

## Methodists oppose extramarital sex

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Methodist church stood by the traditional Christian view of marriage yesterday after one of the most heated debates in recent years.

The Methodist conference, meeting in Newcastle upon Tyne, adopted a statement on marriage and family life which argues that sexual relationships should be confined to marriage. The statement, the result of nine years of revision and argument, has by its adoption assumed the position of official church teaching. It was adopted in the face of strong criticism from young, single and divorced Methodists who described it as patronising and outdated.

After the debate yesterday the Rev Brian Duckworth, general secretary of the social responsibility division, which drew up the statement, denied it was patronising. "There is a lot

of concern about the chaos of modern families, the fact that children and young people do not know who they belong to. There is a growing awareness of the damage that informal relationships result in. It is in the interests of society that people live in dependable relationships."

Mr Duckworth told conference that the statement, while sensitive to a variety of relationships, affirmed Christian orthodoxy. "Individuals can be and obviously are completely fulfilled as single people. Understanding, a sense of proportion and awareness of the modern sexual climate are needed."

The statement gained the 75 per cent majority needed to be adopted as a declaration of the church by a narrow margin. Most speakers in the hour long debate opposed its views.



## Hotels face ruin as trade drops to ten-year low

By Harvey Elliott, Travel Correspondent

HUNDREDS of hotels in England are losing money as occupancy levels fall to their lowest for more than ten years.

The situation for the first three months of this year was even worse than for last year when the Gulf war severely reduced the number of visitors according to a survey by Howarth Consulting and the English Tourist Board. "Far from recovering from the recession, many hotels are clearly trading at levels which are below their critical break-even point," Geoff Parkinson, Howarth's director responsible for the survey, said. "At these present low occupancy levels, many hotels are plainly losing money."

The survey, based on information from more than 500 hotels in England, shows that the average monthly occupancy was up to nine percentage points lower than in the first quarter of last year and was "the worst first quarter trading period since 1980", Mr Parkinson said. "To get back to 1989 levels throughout the country, the recession will have to be well and truly over and, for some hotels, it will be too late."

Many hotels, especially in the countryside, were bought at the top of the market with large mortgages or bank loans. Now their owners are finding it increasingly hard, if not impossible, to cover their debts.

In the first three months of this year, 113 hotels went into receivership, according to the accountants KPMG, although banks are reluctant to foreclose on the loans because, if an hotel is to be sold, it must remain open for business.

One possible ray of hope could come from the latest government statistics showing that overseas visitors to Britain increased by 16 per cent in April compared with the same month last year and that their spending increased by 20 per cent to £570 million.

The figures are viewed with some scepticism within the

industry, however. The Howarth survey shows that, in April, hotels had an average occupancy rate of 45 per cent, compared with 49 per cent last year, 58 per cent in 1990 and 52 per cent in 1989. In January, the average occupancy was 30 per cent.

All grades of hotels suffered, but cheaper ones performed slightly better than others. "Budget-style operations are obviously gaining from people down-trading, but it would be true to say that few hoteliers can be happy with their trading position," Mr Parkinson said.

Specific numbers of hotels in receivership are almost impossible to collate and vary according to the method used. Department of Trade statistics show that the number of hotel and catering companies that became insolvent last year was 748, compared with 489 in 1990, 489 in 1989 and 371 in 1988.

Diane De Vaul, of the accountant Touche Ross, says that, in the first five months of this year, 69 hotels or hotel chains went into receivership, compared with 49 in the same period last year. "Our view is that the first quarter was particularly bad because people waited for the outcome of the election and this hit bookings hard," he said. "The second quarter did not get any worse and our predictions are that, although the third quarter is still not good, things will improve sharply in the last three months of the year."

September is usually the busiest month for hotels. In 1989, 71 per cent of rooms were filled across Britain and 73 per cent in London. By last year, that had fallen to 64 per cent and 68 per cent respectively.

Although there is a widespread belief that this September will show a significant improvement on last year, the normally short-lived peak season will have to be particularly strong to cover the losses built up over the past few months.

## Badgers fall victim to drought

By Louise Hidalgo

A WILDLIFE hospital in southern England is receiving record numbers of animals suffering from malnutrition and dehydration as the worst drought in two centuries tightens its grip.

Badgers are among the worst affected, according to the Wildlife Hospital Trust, whose St Tiggywinkles hospital at Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, is treating more than 1,000 animals, most of them victims of the water shortage. One of the latest admissions is a female badger, critically dehydrated, weighing almost half the average and infested with maggots. Before her was a four-month-old cub which a farmer discovered semi-comatose in a field beside its dead mother and siblings.

Les Stocker, the hospital's founder, said: "We have received more than 20 badgers in the past fortnight, which is unprecedented at this time of the year. The earthworms which are the badgers' staple diet are digging deeper into the ground to find moisture and the badgers cannot follow. Many of the woodland



Patient work: Les Stocker with two badgers on intravenous drips at his wildlife hospital yesterday

streams and rivulets they drink from have dried up. Some have been injured by cars as they scavenged for food.

Most of the badgers are too weak to feed themselves and the hospital puts them on an intravenous drip of saline and dextrose solution. As their strength returns, they are fed on dog food and

frozen meat, supplemented with anabolic steroids to rebuild lost muscle mass. Ninety per cent survive. The hospital has also been admitting more foxes — 40

in the past three weeks — hedgehogs and deer, most suffering from lack of water.

Animals and families, L&T section, page 1

## Scientists baffled by frog deaths

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

FROGS appear to be dying in unprecedented numbers in Britain this year, researchers say. Scientists at the Zoological Society in Regent's Park, north London, who have studied frog carcasses from affected sites say that they have few clues as to the cause.

Andrew Cunningham, veterinary pathologist at the society, said yesterday: "It is certainly a serious problem... we have reports of several hundred frogs dying at a single site."

The society, in co-operation with the RSPCA and Herpetofauna Consultants International, is trying to discover the cause through the Frog Mortality Project which was set up three weeks ago. Reports of mass deaths of common frogs, *Rana temporaria*, have been rising for five years.

Dr Cunningham said mass frog deaths had been reported elsewhere in the world. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature, in Geneva, Switzerland, was planning an amphibian task force.

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## Pupils taught to love home comforts

By Rachel Kelly, Property Correspondent

THE first teacher to take lessons in housing and how to avoid homelessness is to be appointed in Yorkshire.

The Leaving Home initiative, by Yorkshire Metropolitan Housing Association's charitable wing, is being launched today to complement National Housing Week, which begins next Monday, and which will focus on the problems of children when they leave home.

The position of housing education worker will be based at Sheffield City Polytechnic's department of urban and regional studies. The successful candidate will work during school terms visiting schools in the county to take lessons on the costs of buying and renting, the limited benefits available to young people, and options available for the homeless.

"This is to stop the young person who leaves home and is hitching up the M1 to London, without realising that they have a much better chance of finding a hostel or home in Leeds," said Bill Payne, from the Yorkshire Metropolitan Housing Association. "My experience is that so few of young people know what to expect and can, and do, fall prey to unscrupulous landlords and appalling housing conditions at excessively high rents."

The post is for a teacher with a knowledge of housing. The teacher will be encouraged to train other teachers to continue the work.

Pupils will be given information packs. "Ultimately, we would like to provide about 10,000 of these education packs for pupils, and a develop a network of teachers well briefed on housing," Mr Payne said. The £50,000 project has been funded by money raised on Red Nose Day.

## Sun lotion labelling 'confusing'

Environmental health officers urged the government yesterday to introduce a uniform system of protection factor numbering for sun tan lotions so consumers could accurately compare the merits of rival products. They also want regular testing to establish their effectiveness.

The health officers in London said that present labelling systems were confusing and that people could be over exposing themselves to ultra-violet radiation by applying creams that gave too little protection.

They said research had shown that some products claiming a high level of protection failed to give it and that figures quoted on some products were little more than marketing gimmicks.

## Student missing

A land and air search of the Galloway hills has failed to find Amanda Ross, 22, who vanished from her home at Newton Stewart, Dumfries and Galloway, at 4am on Wednesday. She is thought to have been wearing only a nightdress. Police said that they were gravely concerned.

## Green wellies

A recycling bank for old wellington boots has been opened by Preseli Pembrokeshire District Council. They will be made into new boots by Dunlop Footwear which said: "It's a green scheme but they don't have to be green wellies to be recycled."

## Old bone

A bone found at Redland Brickworks, Sileby, East Sussex, has been identified as belonging to a 30ft, five-tonne Iguanodon dinosaur from 140 million years ago.

## £3,300 condom

An 8in French condom made in 1810 with an illustration of a man and three bishops was bought by a Swedish man for £3,300 at Christie's in London yesterday.



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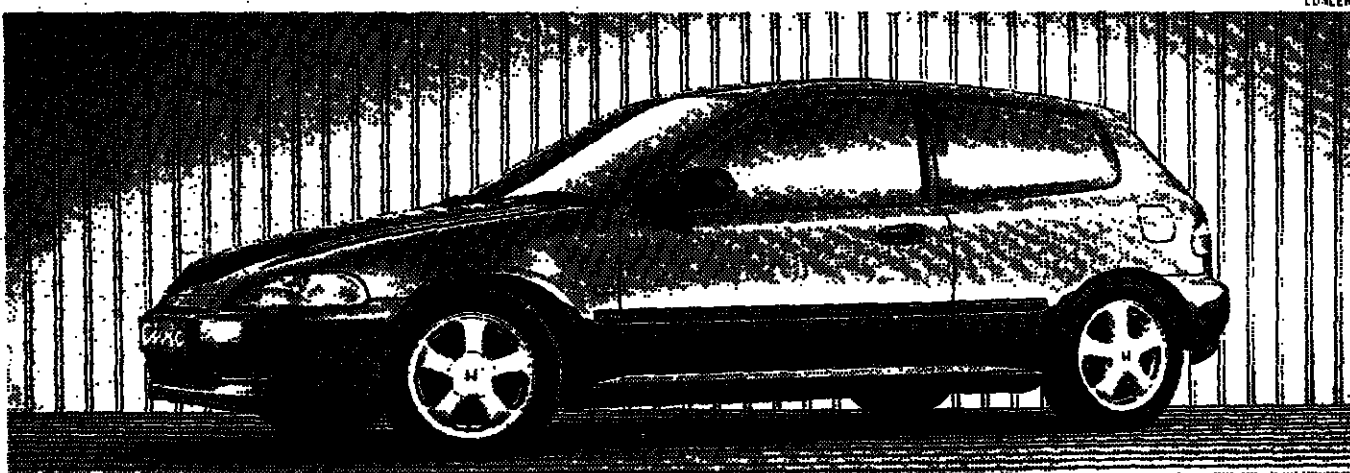
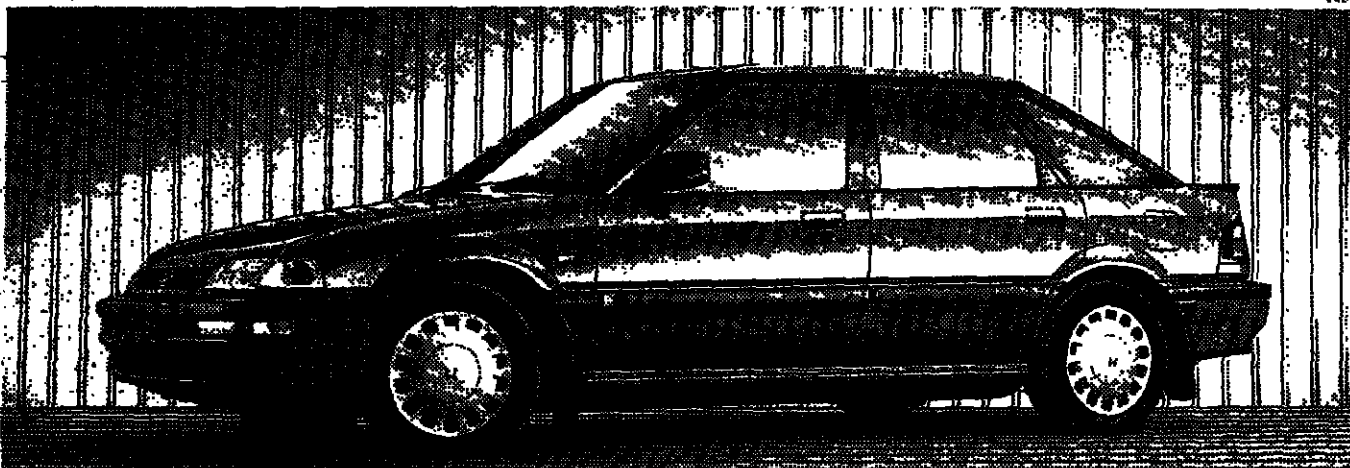
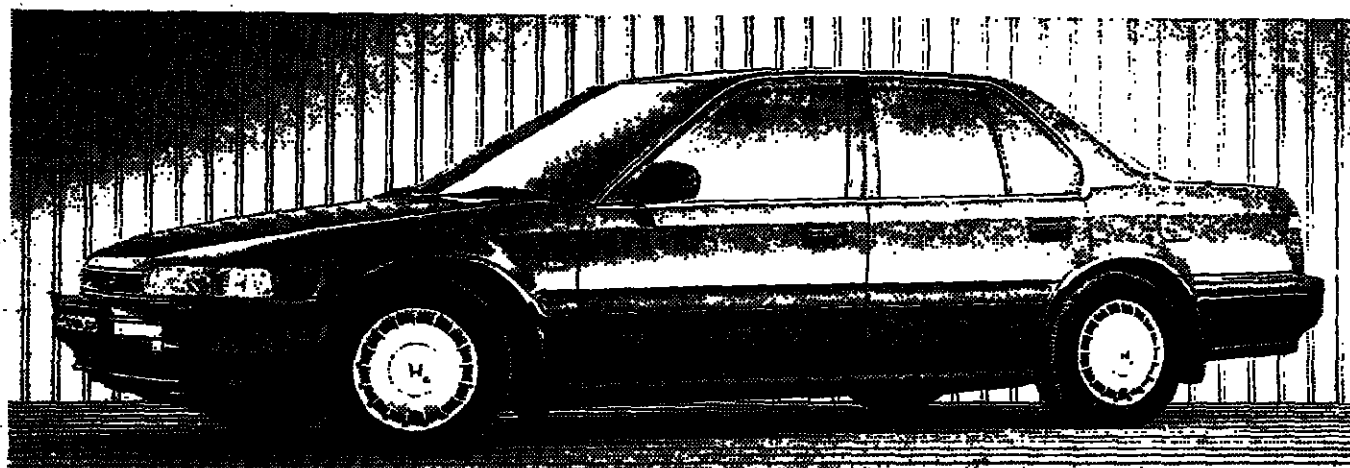
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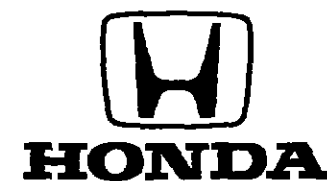
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# Government sees treaty as best basis for wider Europe

THE continuing dispute over the Maastricht treaty must not overshadow Britain's EC presidency, which represented "a first class opportunity to promote and protect British interests", Baroness Chalker, foreign minister, told peers yesterday.

At the start of the Lords debate on the presidency, Lady Chalker said that ratification of the treaty, which "has so dominated commentary on Europe in the past months", could not be allowed to dominate the next six months.

The EC had a large work agenda, regardless of Maastricht. "Clearly the Community needs to examine the consequences of the Danish referendum, but we stand by the Maastricht agreement as the best foundation for building a wider and more decentralised Europe."

She insisted that Denmark "cannot be coerced or excluded" because of its people's referendum decision. "We must respect Denmark's democratic procedures and views as to what they want to do next. We must also respect the firm commitment to the Maastricht treaty which this government negotiated, signed and successfully commended to both Houses for approval in December."

"We must accommodate

**Maastricht must not dominate Britain's EC presidency, says Baroness Chalker. Arthur Leathley and John Lewis report on the Lords debate on Europe**

the desire to see the Community progress as 12 together in the tradition of strong and enduring consensus that has brought us thus far."

Enlargement was a key area in which Britain would play a leading role and Britain would prepare as much ground as possible to ensure that formal accession negotiations would take place in 1993 with Austria, Sweden, Finland and Switzerland. The resultant enlargement would achieve "the very vision of a wider Community that I know Baroness Thatcher so deeply shares."

Lord Richard, Labour's EC affairs spokesman and a former EC commissioner, said that the "problems the government face should not and cannot be underestimated". Turmoil in former Yugoslavia and Eastern Europe combined with the EC's own "urgent internal problems" meant that the presidency came at a critical stage in the Community's history.

"It is all very well to say that it [Maastricht] will not be allowed to dominate the Brit-

ish presidency. It is bound to dominate because it goes right to the heart of the Community in its present form."

He said it was ironic that the government was now in charge during a difficult period after it had been obstructive prior to Maastricht and had created "a two-speed Europe with Britain in the slower lane."

"The prime minister must demonstrate the will and unity to put the ratification process back on course."

He agreed that the Danes must not be coerced into agreement and said that there was no point in renegotiating with the Danish government. The prime minister was honour bound to approve ratification, irrespective of the Danish decision. "Drifting is hardly a policy and delay is hardly a long-term strategy."

The government's opposition to economic and monetary union had led to it being "outflanked" over the setting up of a European central bank. "To say that you may not join in the game is not the

best posture to trying to get the game played on your pitch."

Ministers would have to be seen to represent the interests of the whole country and not merely their party. "Encumbered as the government is with the ideological baggage of the past ten years, this task will not be an easy one."

Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, leader of the Liberal Democrat peers and former president of the European Commission, rejected claims that Europe was "teetering on the brink" of becoming "an all-powerful superstate which will dominate our lives".

He said there was no danger of the EC becoming a United States of Europe, and added that the proportion of gross national product given by member states to the Community budget was less than a tenth of that paid by American states to Washington. It was important that Europe should not dominate members who were equally or better able to make their own decisions.

Britain's presidency would represent an "exceptional opportunity" to play an effective role in Europe, perhaps more than at any time since the UK's entry into the Common Market.

He warned peers that the EC needed to resolve its



Thatcher: powers and rights "are being given away to the centre in Brussels"

present difficulties before enlargement. "There is no sense in living in a world of illusion and it is undoubtedly an illusion that a Community in dispute could turn itself from one of 12 into one of 20 or more."

He urged increased power for the European parliament as a democratic instrument. He wanted Europe to proceed to a single currency, but

insisted this did not involve the "sacrifice" of Britain's national identity or her democratic position.

Baroness Thatcher accused European ministers of losing touch with the views of the public and urged Britain and its European partners to use the Danish referendum result as a chance to "think again". Delivering her 24-minute

maiden speech in the Lords, Lady Thatcher told peers that the Maastricht treaty did not tackle today's problems. "The world has changed dramatically in the last two years and the Community must adapt to that or it will lose its purpose and support," she warned. "The result of the Danish referendum is an opportunity to think again but there is regrettably little sign that the Community as a whole is ready to do that."

Lady Thatcher again pressed for British opinion on the deal to be tested in a referendum. "Justifiable scepticism is on the increase. People feel that their governments have gone ahead too fast, so that now the gap between governments and people is too wide. The particular concerns are different in each country but the basic misgivings are mostly the same."

"People feel too many of the powers and rights that have been theirs for centuries are being given away to the centre in Brussels."

She warned peers that in the modern political world, where European ministers spent so much time in each other's company, they got "out of touch with the people and too much in touch with themselves."

Lady Thatcher said: "In a sensible world, we would ne-

policy even if it is more sweetly expressed."

Attacking centralisation of power, she said: "There's far too much centralisation going on, far too much bureaucracy going on. We don't like it but nevertheless we are going to ratify the Maastricht treaty. Those things just don't add up."

She said Maastricht was one of the great constitutional issues of the time and said she hoped its implications would be debated in greater detail after the recess.

The prime minister could have great influence over the whole future of the Community. She praised Mr Major, saying: "I wish him well during the British presidency." He would carry out the role "with effectiveness".

"I've made my view clear on the Maastricht treaty. I do not believe that will be resolved during our presidency, and I think noble lords will know how I would vote."

Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, who as Labour prime minister held the last British referendum on Europe, urged John Major to reconsider his decision not to have a public vote on ratification. He did not feel that the last referendum had harmed Britain's constitution and added that the nation could vote for ratification.

He accepted that the Danish vote had been a shock to Europe, which had appeared to have been "almost sleepwalking" over Maastricht. Lord Callaghan said he believed the Maastricht treaty did meet the needs of the 21st century, but there was a gap to be filled before this was understood. If there were difficulties in meeting some of the requirements, more time must be allowed.

He went on: "To vote 'No' would be wrong. It will send, clearly, the wrong signal to other countries of Europe, unleashing the rampant nationalism which is dormant, but already showing its head in Eastern Europe and the former Russian republics."

"It would disconcert many people who are looking to the Community as a source of stability and strength."

It would not be a question of simply failing to pass a treaty and carrying on as before. "I don't think the Community can stand still," he said. "Unless the Community did go forward, it would go backwards and if it goes backwards I fear what the consequences will be."

Lord Callaghan warned the government not to overload the Western European Union with tasks it could not achieve. It did not have the capacity. We must continue to supplement the great effort of the United States. "We must concede to no one anything which undermines Nato: it is fundamental to our defence situation. It is, moreover, of particular value in relation to Germany because a non-nuclear Germany demands the cover of American forces in Europe and so Nato must be maintained at full strength," he said.

Lord Stoddart of Swindon, the Labour Euro-sceptic, said the approach of Lady Thatcher reminded him of the old song: "No, No, No, a thousand times No. I would rather die than say Yes." He hoped that when the Maastricht treaty was debat-



Lord Stoddart: "There is no sense in living in a world of illusion"

ed, she would continue to say "No, No, a thousand times No."

Lady Thatcher nodded in assent as Lord Stoddart added that British people were being told they were winning rights when they were actually losing them. Labour, he admitted, was suffering "a severe attack of Europhoria".

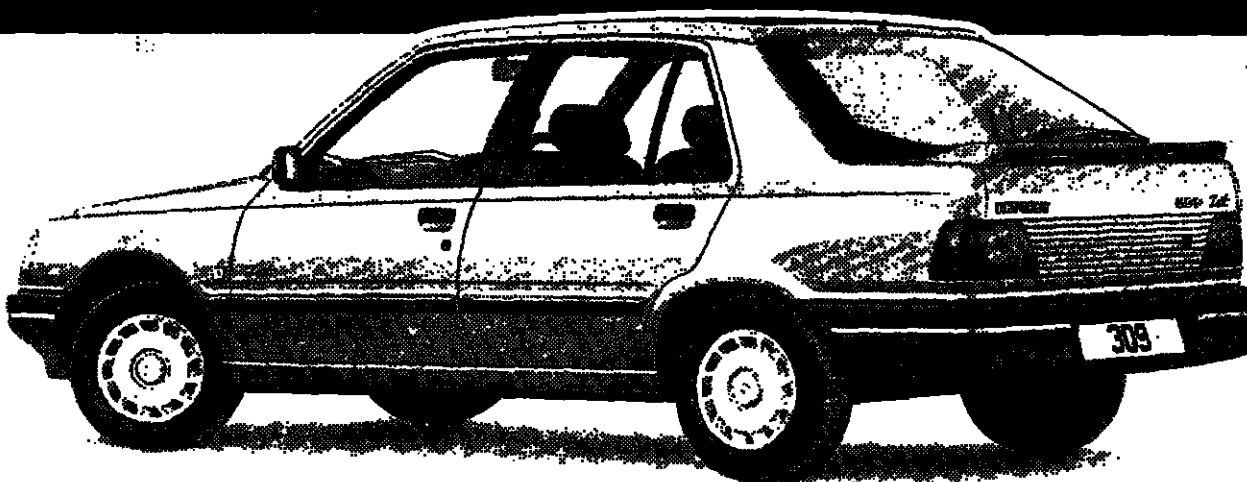
Lord Cockfield, another former EC commissioner, said it was worrying that a gap was opening up between people and their governments on EC issues. This was most clearly illustrated in the Danish referendum.

Maastricht was an important treaty and it ought to be ratified, but its importance was being "somewhat exaggerated". To a very large extent, the policies in it were those already agreed by the Community. Some were already carried out in Community law. There was nothing objectionable in the treaty.

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# Disordered world relies on EC help, MPs told

DOUGLAS Hurd is to go to Yugoslavia the week after next to get a first-hand impression of recent developments. He said he hoped to visit as many of the republics as possible, as well as Tirana, the capital of Albania. But he made it clear again that there was no question of committing British ground forces.

The foreign secretary made the announcement in the Commons yesterday as he opened the debate on Britain's plans for its presidency of the European Community. Mr Hurd devoted the early part of his speech to the Balkans but displayed little optimism about the immediate future.

He emphasised the importance of the satisfactory outcome to the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) negotiations and set out the main plans of Britain's policy for the EC for the next six months. These are: steps towards enlargement; completion of the single market by the end of the year; tighter controls on spending by the Community; and further extension of subsidiarity, or "minimum interference" as Mr Hurd frequently referred to it yesterday.

Mr Hurd admitted that the next six months were rather daunting. Ministers faced a huge array of summits and conferences in all parts of the world. But the world was in a disorderly state and, in Yugoslavia, to Russia, to South Africa, the EC was expected

Douglas Hurd, opening the debate on Europe, announced that he plans to visit the Yugoslav republics, write Robert Morgan and John Winder

want need to build on ratification of the treaty rather than on its destruction.

The single market, he went on, had to be liberal and open. Britain's future wealth depended on its manufacturing industries and services remaining internationally competitive. All member states had been basically agreed on the single market for many years, but there were three new matters for Britain to deal with during her presidency. At first it had been uphill on all three, but now Britain had strong allies and the flow of ideas was in Britain's favour.

Mr Hurd continued: "We want to enlarge the Community. Second, we want the Community to practise the same self-restraint in spending as most national governments. Third, we want to restrain the intrusiveness of the Commission."

On enlargement, he said that Austria, Sweden, Finland and Switzerland had already applied and Norway might follow in November. The aim was that by the Edinburgh Council at the end of the British presidency all preparations should be in place so that negotiations could start as soon as future financing was settled and Maastricht ratified. "The aim is to complete negotiations during 1993 with a view to the countries joining by 1995. That has for a long time been our preferred timetable. It is ambitious but realistic."

The EC would also be discussing ways of creating closer links with Turkey, Cyprus and Malta. "By the turn of the century we want the Community to embrace the new democracies in Central Europe: Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia."

He added that he would like association agreements with Bulgaria and Romania and trade agreements with Russia and the other main CIS states.

On future financing, he said that at the Lisbon summit, it was clear that many member states were unhappy with the idea of large increases in Community spending. During its presidency, Britain would be looking for an agreement that respected budget discipline and the need for sound finances.

On subsidiarity, he said that the Maastricht treaty helped to clarify the boundaries of Community competence, but even before ratification, urgent work should be conducted on carrying through the principle of subsidiarity as soon as possible. A report on progress would be made to the Edinburgh Council, where he hoped firm decisions would be taken. This had been discussed with the Commission on Wednesday when the prime minister gave it a clear steer, emphasising that nothing would allay the fears of those questioning the Community more than a successful work programme this year to apply the principle of minimum interference not just to future proposals, but to existing legislation.

In his last speech from the Opposition from bench, Gerald Kaufman, Labour's spokesman on foreign affairs, said that Labour would oppose any quillotine on the bill to ratify the Maastricht treaty but would reserve its position on the bill itself until it saw its final form.

He said that the government regarded the treaty as something nasty on the pavement, but even though they might walk gingerly round it, there it still lay.

Mr Kaufman opened by saying that the error of allowing some parts of former Yugoslavia to become client states of EC countries had already been made with consequences that had led to tragedy. It had been a serious error for the EC council last December to be dragged by Germany into making a date for recognition of the republics. The whole process of

recognition by Germany had been injurious to the council.

Recognition of small states, unviable economically and politically, by undue provision of the cachet of the Community had encouraged other republics to declare their independence. He did not say that the tragedy of Bosnia-Herzegovina was a direct consequence, but had that December decision not been made, it was possible Bosnia would not have been so speedy and confident in declaring independence.

Sanctions should have been imposed sooner and should have been more comprehensive. The United Nations should also have been involved earlier.

Action in former Yugoslavia should only be under UN authority and he hoped the government would take seriously suggestions for a permanent structure for a UN force, as advocated by Labour two years ago.

There had been no clear statement by the government of its objectives during the presidency. The prime minister seemed to imagine that subsidiarity stopped at central government and that there should be no decentralisation below that level. He clearly had no idea of what subsidiarity really meant.

The Labour definition was that decisions should be made at the level of the Community, nationally, regionally or locally, wherever maximum democratic control and effectiveness was ensured.

As for enlargement, Mr Major had made clear that during the United Kingdom presidency it was little more than an academic issue.

"Nobody knew when the Maastricht treaty would be ratified. Its uncertain fate was an insuperable obstacle to a productive UK presidency."

Even the prime minister now admitted that it was pointless for the Commons to proceed with the required bill until they could see clearly the way forward from the Danish referendum.

Labour had already made clear it supported much of the treaty but took great exception to the exclusion of the social chapter.

The objectives during the British presidency should include much more specific effort to obtain agreement to accession of applicant states. It was far too negative to say that enlargement should await ratification of Maastricht.

The United Kingdom should make clear that Turkey would not be admitted while it had troops in Cyprus against the will of the local government. Human rights in Europe and outside should be an important theme of the



Kaufman: sanctions on Yugoslavia should have been imposed sooner

presidency and Albania should be told it would get no aid until it ended the abomination of public hangings.

The British government seemed to be alone in seeing the single market as an adventure playground for capital without providing the necessary protection for employed and unemployed people. It was alone in rejecting the social chapter and charter, and that attitude must change.

Mr Kaufman did not begrudge the government its election victory, but could not forgive it for what it was doing to the poor in his

constituency, who eked out an existence in poor housing, poorly clothed and poorly fed. They were excluded from John Major's classless society because they were too poor to claim membership of any class.

Peter Shore, Labour's longstanding opponent of the European Community, said Britain was beginning to wake up to the consequences of agreeing to the Maastricht treaty. The Dances had actually made the treaty available to the people. "They saw what it implied and they were not going to have it," he said.

If the government told the British public what was involved, he had no doubt it would be equally opposed and a referendum would result in a "No" vote.

He described as "astonishing" the government argument that the treaty was about reversing the centralisation of policy making. In fact, the treaty was the biggest step to centralisation since the Treaty of Rome brought the Community into existence.

The government, he conceded, was in a slightly better position than Labour. Technically, ministers had left open options, but Labour was conceding crucial economic powers to the central bank and in other ways even powers which would influence the level of employment. "They are prepared to give it up. I find it amazing, amazing." What the Labour party had to do was to vote against ratification of the treaty.



A song for Europe: the opera singer Montserrat Caballé rehearses for Saturday's premiere of *Il Viaggio a Reims*, marking Britain's presidency of the EC and the 200th anniversary of the composer Rossini's birthday



## Pledge on welfare of animals

Britain is to use its EC presidency to press for tighter controls on the transportation of live animals. Nicholas Soames, the food minister, told MPs.

Ron Davies, a Labour food spokesman, demanded to know what action would be taken to stop "hundreds of thousands of animals of all species which are transported in intolerable conditions", and called for an eight-hour limit on journeys.

Mr Soames said that maintaining frontier controls would be important in enforcing rules limiting the journey time for live animals.

## BSE toll

The number of cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or "mad cow disease", has reached 38,650 and 700 suspected new cases are being investigated each week, Nicholas Soames, the food minister, told MPs. Many of those suspected cases proved not to be infected, he said. There was no need for foreign countries to avoid British beef.

## Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on the education of people with special needs.

Hurd: "We want to restrain intrusiveness of the Commission"

to play a part for which its institutions and procedures were not yet fully equipped.

The EC agenda, however, was in large part made up of matters in which the government strongly believed — enlargement, reduction of interference, prudent financial settlement of the EC's finances, a GATT settlement and completion of the single market.

Mr Hurd opened his speech with a resumé of the situation in Yugoslavia. The argument about the timing of the recognition of Croatia would continue, but no moment for recognition would have been ideal, no moment that could have brought a painless peace.

There were limits to what outsiders could do. Developments in Yugoslavia were not susceptible to external influences or logic. History, hatred and revenge remained powerful forces.

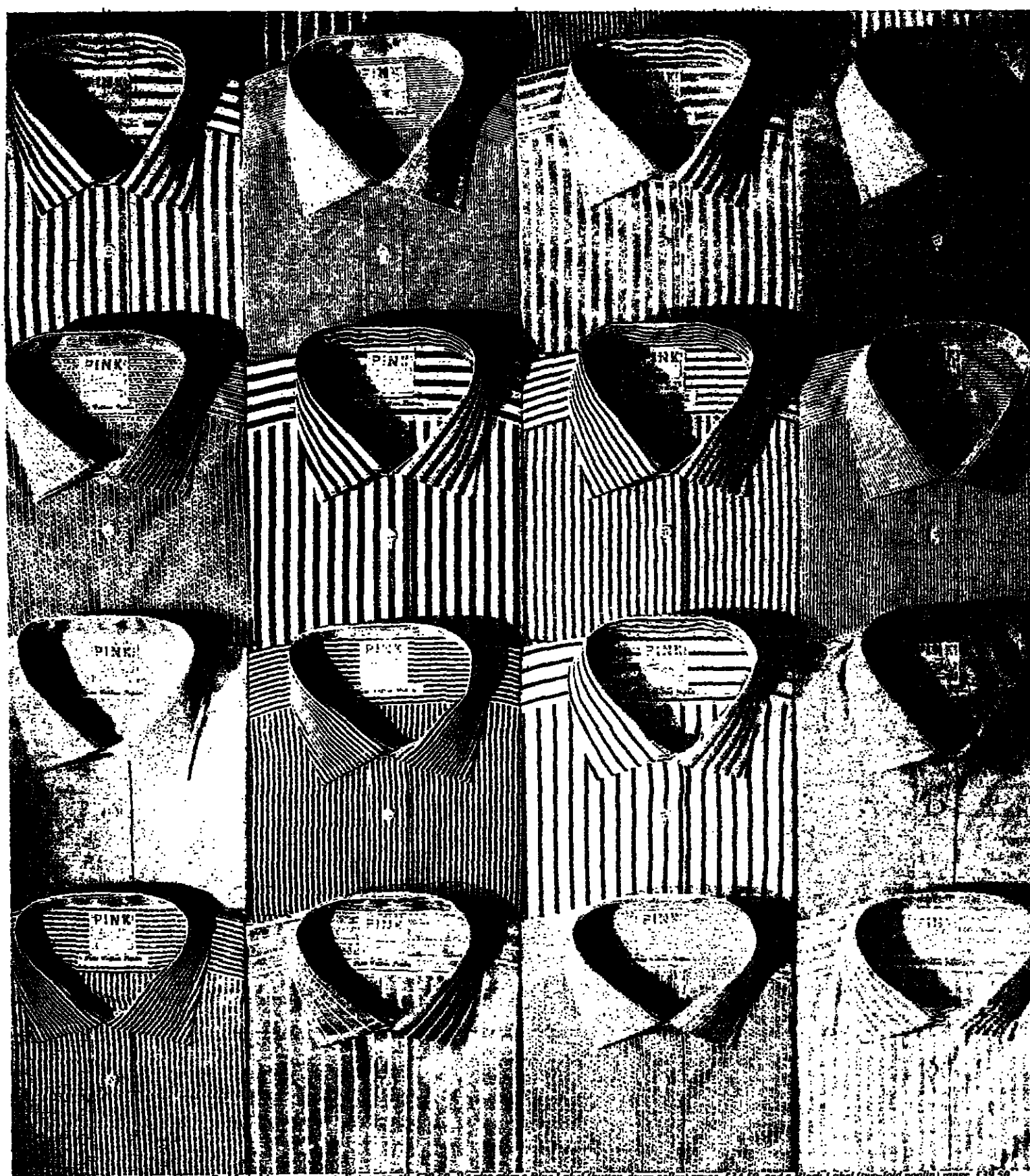
Mr Hurd said that the latest situation in Sarajevo gave some grounds for optimism. President Mitterrand's brave flight into the city had given a chance. The humanitarian situation was the first concern and was clearly desperate. But any aid would not help. Experts would have to assess the needs and the necessary supplies could be ordered.

On the GATT negotiations, Mr Hurd said that the Uruguay round not only affected Britain's prosperity, but that of the developing world. The forthcoming meeting of the Group of Seven leading industrial nations offered the chance to cover the last few yards to the finishing post. He was convinced the remaining differences between the EC and United States on agriculture could be resolved quickly.

Turning to the main burden of his speech, on the British presidency of the EC, Mr Hurd said that recently ministers had frequently been questioned about the Maastricht treaty. "I have nothing new to add today. We are in a period of pause."

The Danish government had asked for time to consider their options. That was fair enough, but by the autumn they had to say how they intended to proceed. "When we know in the autumn how Denmark intends to proceed we can judge when it would be right to ask the House to proceed with the legislation needed to ratify the treaty here."

The prime minister has repeatedly stressed our support for the treaty which we negotiated in good faith. I am clear myself that our efforts to achieve the Community we



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## Bottomley to set targets for healthier lives

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

VIRGINIA Bottomley, the health secretary, is putting the finishing touches to a white paper announcing a health strategy and setting targets for reducing preventable diseases and deaths.

With Britain one of the unhealthiest nations in the developed world, the paper to be published within two weeks will announce initiatives for reducing heart disease, the biggest killer, and infant mortality and for a wider system of screening and health checks. It will set targets for discouraging smoking and emphasise the dangers of a high-fat diet and too little exercise.

The white paper will follow the lines set out in *Health of the Nation* by William Waldegrave, Mrs Bottomley's predecessor. The emphasis will be that, while individual freedom is respected, people must take responsibility for the health consequences of their behaviour.

As the government's initiative nears completion, a team of MPs yesterday criticised a patchy network of breast and cervical cancer screening, with women in some areas still reluctant to come forward for tests.

The Commons public accounts committee urged a bigger push by health officials to contact women, especially the homeless and those from ethnic minorities, for regular screening for the two cancers which have claimed the lives of 250,000 women in England in the past 20 years.

The MPs' report said that the proportion of women in the high-risk age group coming forward for cervical screening rose from 43 to 74 per cent between 1989 and 1991. Breast screening exceeded the health depart-

ment's target of 70 per cent of women at risk. But there were big variations, with some areas, such as London, reporting low take-up. "It was extremely difficult to maintain accurate registers of patients where there was a transient population and the ethnic make-up of some populations was the second factor that made a difference."

Health officials told the committee that a personal approach worked better than letters to women reluctant to be screened. Health authorities ran projects to contact, through women's groups and representatives of ethnic minorities, those who did not register with family doctors.

The death rate from breast cancer in England and Wales is the highest in the world and more than 50 per cent higher than rates in Australia and the United States. Deaths from cervical cancer are also high compared to other developed countries. The report said that cervical cancer is more prevalent among poorer women but breast cancer is greatest among women in the top socio-economic group.

Health officials could not explain the rates, the report said. "They thought it unlikely that the high death rate was due to differences in the quality of treatment in this country. Similarly, for cervical cancer there was no simple single one-line explanation."

After questioning by the MPs, the officials said that of the £130 million spent on cancer research in 1990-1, mainly by the Medical Research Council and charities, only £10 million went directly to breast cancer research.

*Cervical and breast screening in England, Commons committee of public accounts, second report (Stationery Office £9.75)*

## Smith searches for lost flock

This month John Smith will be elected Labour's leader. But leader of what? Not, certainly, of what Harold Wilson once fondly took to describing as a "party of government".

A London School of Economics symposium this week on the "Japanisation" of British politics scarcely offered much comfort to the party. Professor Denis Kavanagh reminded us that, of the 13 leaders of the Conservative party, 12 had been prime minister, whereas only four of Labour's dozen or so have made it to Downing Street. By 1995, the Conservative party will have been in power for 33 years out of the half century since 1945.

Still more daunting, perhaps, is Professor Ivor Crewe's warning of the mountain which remains for Labour to climb. On the 1992 figures, it would take a swing of only 0.6 per cent for Labour to deprive the Conservatives of their majority next time. It would require a swing of 2.5 per cent for Labour to become the largest party. But a 4.1 per cent swing would be needed for Labour to win an outright majority, a bigger swing than Labour has ever achieved.

Those figures do not allow for the boundary changes that a bill before the Commons is virtually certain to put in place for the next election. Assuming a 15-seat advantage to the Tories from those (and some expect it to be more), Labour would need a 2 per cent swing simply to deprive the Tories of a majority, 4 per cent to become the largest party and 6 per cent to gain power in its own right. That is double its best showing since the war.

Other figures from the day's musings offer little more cheer to Mr Smith. John Underwood, once Labour's communications director, said that at the start of the campaign there were 17 per cent more people who believed the Conservatives would win than believed Labour would. By the end, there were 23 per cent more believing that Labour would win. That can be taken as evidence that Labour "won the campaign". But it also suggests that the effectiveness of the campaign only worsened the result for Labour. The more people thought it was likely to win, the more its vote declined.

Michael Heseltine said

**POLITICAL NOTEBOOK**  
By ROBIN OAKLEY

as the campaign opened that the Conservatives would talk about tax in the first week, tax in the second and tax in the third. It was the negative end of the tactics first devised for the Tories by Harold Macmillan in the Central Office memo asking: "Who are the middle classes, what do they want and how can we give it to them?"

The problem for Mr Smith is: where is our interest group? With a shrinking working class, more home owners, more shareholders, whom does Labour pursue? With the attractions these days of single-issue politics on the environment, women's issues and the like, it cannot hope to build the mythical mass party. Tied to the unions, it cannot attract the floating vote it needs. Broke, it can scarcely afford its politics without the unions.

Somewhere out there, largely away from the public gaze, a leadership election campaign is allegedly being held, but it has not told us much about Mr Smith's plans to lift Labour against this miserable background. He acknowledges that the party must modernise to meet the aspirations of the young couples on South-East housing estates, but insists that Labour cannot abandon its redistributive approach to taxation. The answer is to be a fudge: a commission extended to non-Labour participants to examine the question of taxation and benefits.

He is in favour of more one-person, one-vote democracy within the party. But with the unions up in arms about their planned removal from the selection process, reform will be postponed until we have the report of a more general enquiry into the relationship between the party and its main financial backers.

Mr Smith is a man of sharp intellect, warm humour and considerable debating ability. He will make a polished and appealing leader. But he will need a platform on which to stand. The danger is that, unless he can come up with some new clarion call, he will be seen to be standing on a morass of fudge.



Last outpost: Chris Patten, his wife Lavender and daughters Laura, left, and Alice packed and ready for a new life. The family leave for Hong Kong on Sunday, where Mr Patten, former Tory party chairman, is to be governor until the colony's handover to China in 1997

## Heseltine shake-up aims to boost British industry

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine, the trade and industry secretary, will announce a shake-up of his department today to help boost British industry.

Offices will be set up within the department linked to different sectors of industry rather than regional areas. The restructuring, which is expected to be cost-neutral, using the same people in different roles, is part of Mr Heseltine's strategy to encourage investment and promote British exports.

Mr Heseltine, who is expected to adopt a much more interventionist role than his predecessor, Peter Lilley, is keen to get companies to work together so that they can maximise opportunities for contracts at home and abroad. Trade and industry ministers are concerned that only about 40 per cent of companies are members of trade associations or chambers of commerce which allow them access to information about world trade.

Smaller companies were often working in isolation and unable to capitalise on this data to arrange deals with other companies.

Mr Heseltine and his colleagues are keen to back winners and give them as much support as possible. "We should be trying to find the diamonds," said one source close to Mr Heseltine.

However, the department is anxious not to attract too much criticism from right-wingers in the party who will

accuse Mr Heseltine of intervening too much in the market.

Sources within the DTI indicated yesterday that ministers would instead be trying to openly publicise British wares, for example by getting local councils to set up mini-Expos in industrial centres. Ministers are said to be particularly keen to exploit the market in the Far East, particularly China and Taiwan. British hotel chains could expand in this area, using

British foodstuffs and other British goods.

Speaking to business leaders at a conference organised by *The Sunday Times* last month, Mr Heseltine underlined the need for an effective dialogue with industry. "We must deal not just with the icing on the cake but with the cake itself."

The DTI has already reintroduced industry sponsorship to help companies have direct access to the appropriate department.

## PM hails progress on Ulster

BY SHEILA GUNN

JOHN Major hailed the breakthrough by Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary, in clearing the way for talks between Ulster politicians and the Irish government as "a great step forward".

Speaking during Commons questions, he also condemned the IRA's murder of three men in South Armagh. "The discovery of the three bodies in Armagh last night and the subsequent admission of the Provisional IRA that they were responsible demonstrates yet again the true nature of terrorism."

He said the "historic agreement" by the Northern Ireland parties on Wednesday to start talks involving the British and Irish governments deserved an unreserved welcome. He hoped that the first meeting would be held under the independent chairmanship of Sir Ninian Stephen as soon as possible.

"I think it is premature to make predictions about the eventual outcome. But the way is now open for the Northern Ireland parties to explore new relationships face to face with the Irish government."

Mr Major was replying to Jonathan Evans, Conservative MP for Brecon and Radnor, who said that the killings undermined the need for peaceful progress.

14 informers killed, page 2

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THE TIMES FRIDAY JULY 3 1992

# Routiers revive the ancient French sport of being beastly

CONTRARY to what Britons might imagine, France's "professionals of the highway," as the lorry drivers call themselves, are not seizing motorways just to inflict agony on foreign tourists in some perfidious follow-up to last week's assaults on Euro Disneyland and the pride of Cornwall's fishing fleet.

The routiers' blockade is aimed at visiting misery on their own countrymen, an ancient French sport which can be traced back to Roman times when Tacitus recorded the Gallic tendency to be beastly to each other. German tribes, he said, would fight for material gain. The Gauls would wallop one another just to prove a point.

Tacitus' Gaul was clearly in the cab on the A1 motorway near Lille yesterday when the police threatened to shoot. "We'll drive two petrol tankers onto the road, open the valves and see what happens," a driver said.

Foreigners may not be aware that this streak of extreme bloody-mindedness, demonstrated throughout the ages from the medieval massacres to farmers dumping manure last week on the doorstep of Jacques Delors, is the source of much agony to the French themselves. They are the first to apply that old cliché about loving the country but hating the French.

The phenomenon is hardly new, despite recent TV programmes and magazine articles agonising over odious French behaviour under headlines such as "Beastliness

The mentality of lorry drivers who blocked motorways and upset holiday makers harks back to Roman times, writes Charles Bremner from Paris

— the French disease". Voltaire spent much of his exile in England railing against the ghastly French. Flaubert wrote in 1875 that "no-one more than I is more aware of the insupportability of the national character. That word (unbearability) is one of a string of terms which the French apply to themselves when they complain about their *esprit raleur* (grousing), their *mauvaise foi* (bad faith) to each other and their endless *querelles franco-françaises*."

By the 19th century, whole books were being written on issue of Gallic mean-mindedness, with some experts pointing to biological causes such as diet and foreign blood. Others, such as the great observer Alexis de Tocqueville, traced the lack of civic spirit, the mentality of *après-moi-le-déluge* to a divorce between the citizen and the distant all-powerful state.

The French, noted the experts, are full of paradoxes, starting with the one that opposes their volatile spirits to the cold logic of Descartes. The drivers' *harcèlement*, for example, both from extreme idealism and selfishness (philosophical objection to a

new driving licence system) with utter selfishness (the desire to take thousands of countrymen hostage and destroy the holidays of Welsh children). Tocqueville diagnosed the trouble as "collective individualism, that is the selfishness of little groups and sub-groups".

Whatever the origins, no nation in Europe has demonstrated such an ability to make life miserable for itself for so long. The farmers' and truck drivers' *grogne* is a direct descendant of the Albigensian massacres of the 13th century, the religious wars of the 16th, the peasants' revolts and massacres in the Cévennes under Louis XIV, the punitive expeditions and the Terror of the Revolution, all the way through to the Communism massacres of 1971, the student riots of 1968 and the still unsettled hatreds born of the Vichy collaboration. It is no accident that while Russia has turned into an American business school, France still boasts a Stalinist Communist Party imbued with the spirit of class warfare.

The lorry drivers' problem, say the sociologists, springs from a need to prove their existence through selfish dis-



When beastliness flourished: victims of the Terror being taken in a tumbril to the guillotine in the dark days of the Revolution

ruption, along the lines of "I protest, therefore I am". Pierre Bouvier, an expert at the CNRS, government scientific research body, says Frenchmen protest "to prove they are not just cogs in the machine". Certainly no country has managed to find so

many reasons to disrupt traffic as the French. Of late, Paris traffic has been snarled by revolting school pupils, nurses, doctors, farmers, civil servants, ecologists, cyclists, taxi-drivers, pedestrian-rights activists, gays, smokers, animal lovers, pro-

nines and others. There has even been one march up the Champs Elysées by a group protesting against protests. With mass tourism and feedback from an ever closer outside world, French awareness over the country's masochistic tendency is verging

on obsession. This complex has just come under attack in a new book, *Excuse Me for Being French* by André Froissard, the conservative commentator, ironically and somewhat bitterly. M. Froissard lays into France's low self-esteem. If only he

could have been English, he says. "I would have learned from childhood that there is nothing higher than England, not even heaven. My only regret would be that I would never be able to find a single other people to have a conversation with."

## Flood of refugees sets German record

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN AND DAVID WATTS IN BERLIN

GERMANY yesterday announced a record influx of refugees, highlighting the growing tension being generated in Europe by the increasing movement of refugees and economic migrants.

Almost twice as many refugees sought asylum in Germany during the first six months of this year as in the same period of last year. "The asylum problem has thus become the most urgent internal political problem of all," Rudolf Seiters, the interior minister, said.

Compared with just 96,688 in 1991, a total of 187,455 people had claimed asylum in Germany by June 30. Although new regulations designed to speed up the process of vetting applicants came into force on July 1, Herr Seiters said the problem could be controlled only if the opposition parties allowed changes to the Basic Law (Germany's

constitution) to remove the automatic right of all refugees to claim asylum.

As a recent Aspen Institute seminar heard, Francis Fukuyama's vision of a world safe in the arms of democracy is being laid to rest in the new, cruel European world of ethnic warfare and huge refugee flows. America's willingness to intervene in the relief of Sarajevo's beleaguered population emphasises Washington's recognition of the damage that may be done to civil order in Europe by the continent's newly poisonous strains of nationalism and the refugees they create.

But the seminar illustrated that most European governments have yet to recognise even the potential danger posed by the biggest movements of population in Europe since the second world war, let alone adopt Europe-wide policies to help shore up democra-

cies whose institutions are being threatened by the resulting economic strains.

With large-scale migration from the Commonwealth of Independent States a real possibility when passports become more freely available there in the next six months, and numerous borders in doubt, the problem can only get worse. Even with the present outflow from Eastern Europe, individual governments, among them the Italian, are feeling the strain of tens of thousands of new arrivals. At the same time other European governments are as yet unprepared to share the burden.

Nor do many governments appear to understand the potential for instability being created by the burgeoning foreign populations within European national borders. Germany alone sees the birth of 80,000 children annually who do not qualify for citizenship. This year the German government will play host to at least 400,000 new economic and political immigrants in search of a better life.

Under the country's open-door policy, 265,000 arrived last year, making Germany the destination of choice. Yet only ethnic Germans, of whom 100,000 have already arrived this year, may become citizens and there is no provision for the millions of foreigners within its borders.

"We are not a country of immigration," Germans keep telling themselves, in spite of the evidence to the contrary: a vast mass of Turks sunning themselves along the length of the Tiengarten at weekends and a higher percentage of the population being foreign-born than in America.

But while the majority of German politicians pretend that there is no problem, one German speaker warned American participants at the seminar in graphic terms of the potential threat posed by the 10 million Russians living outside Russia and facing increasingly hostile local populations: "Fukuyama is wrong. The future of democracy is not guaranteed," he said.

## Maastricht went too far, Hurd admits

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN LUXEMBOURG

PARTS of the Maastricht treaty went further than Britain wanted and the result of last year's negotiations was a compromise, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said yesterday.

While he denied Baroness Thatcher's claim that Maastricht was a "treaty too far", his downbeat assessment of the treaty retreats from the government's earlier triumphalist defence of the deal, reached last December, and acknowledges for the first time that the text poses difficulties for Britain.

During the talks themselves, the government was clearly seen to be making concessions but has been reluctant to acknowledge the fact since winning a last-minute opt-out from new European Community social law. In an interview published in *Le Figaro* yesterday, Mr Hurd was asked if he thought the

treaty went too far. "Maastricht is a compromise," he replied. "In certain ways it goes beyond what we wanted."

He did not identify the parts of the treaty the government dislikes. But he added that, thanks to the British and French governments, the ambitions of EC centralists who wanted total integration had been limited.

With the British presidency of the EC just begun, Mr Hurd's language in defence of Denmark's rejection of ratification of the treaty in a referendum is hardening. Asked what will happen if only 11 of the 12 members states have ratified the treaty by December 31, he told *Le Figaro* that Maastricht would then not come into force. He repeated earlier assertions that the Community cannot coerce or exclude Denmark.

## Plan to preserve Hitler bunker upsets Jews

Berlin shrine for neo-Nazis feared, Ian Murray writes from Bonn

PLANS to preserve Hitler's Berlin bunker as a historical monument have run into deep trouble with the city's Jewish community, which fears it will be turned into a place of pilgrimage for today's neo-Nazis.

The vast underground bunker was built in the heart of the city, with direct access from the Reich chancellery on Potsdamerplatz, and stretching out towards the Brandenburg Gate. As the Soviet army advanced in 1945, Hitler took refuge in the bunker with Eva Braun, his mistress, to whom he was married shortly before committing suicide on April 30. After capture by the Soviet

army, most of the 15,000sq ft area was destroyed or flooded. The entrance, in the killing ground of the no man's land on the old communist side of the Wall, was sealed. After unification, the bunker was opened and two rooms used by Hitler's SS bodyguard were found intact, still with their murals showing soldiers in jackboots guarding a model fair-haired and blue-eyed family. Alfred Kemmler, head of Berlin's archaeological of-

fice, has now decided that the remains of the bunker must become a protected monument if it is to be saved from the developers who are planning to rebuild this central area with prestige government offices, embassies and hotels. He has asked the city's senate to pass the necessary order and this will be considered in the next three weeks.

If the order is granted, Ulrich Roloff-Momin, the Berlin senator in charge of

culture, is not yet considering turning the site into a tourist attraction. Rainer Klemmes, his spokesman, said: "We are not thinking of setting up a pilgrimage site for neo-Nazis." The only purpose in protecting the bunker was to help researchers. Any decision to open it to tourists would be taken only after "a long and transparent public discussion process".

The Jewish community, however, is not happy. Members said that "a Führer bunker protected as an historic monument in the centre of Berlin's future government district would quickly become a place of pilgrimage to old and new Nazis".

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Green role for EC's road chief

Brussels: Karel Van Miert, the EC transport commissioner, has been appointed interim environment chief following the resignation of Carlo Ripa di Meana, the high-profile environment commissioner who has become Italy's new minister for environment.

Mr Van Miert, who had alarmed environmentalists by advocating the building of 7,500 miles of motorways, will look after the unit until the new Rome government appoints a successor to Signor Ripa di Meana. (Reuters)

### March planned

Munich: People are to march here on Sunday to commemorate the killing of 11 Israeli athletes by Palestinians at the Olympic Games in 1972. Marchers will walk nine miles from the Olympic stadium to the Nazi Dachau concentration camp. (AFP)

### £10m netted

Paris: France's fight against the laundering of drug money has netted FF100 million (£10 million) since February last year, and about 40 tip-offs are being received each month, according to Michel Sapin, the French finance minister. (Reuters)

### On the mend

Pittsburgh: The recipient of the first baboon-to-human liver transplant talked to his family and was visited by Keith Reemsma, who pioneered animal-human transplants in the 1960s. The patient, 35, was improving though still critical. (AP)

### Search by air

Sydney: Australian police searching for two British women, Joanne Clarke and Lesley Walters, missing since April, are to broadcast appeals at today's Australia-Britain rugby league match in the hope of reaching them. (Reuters)

### Space diet

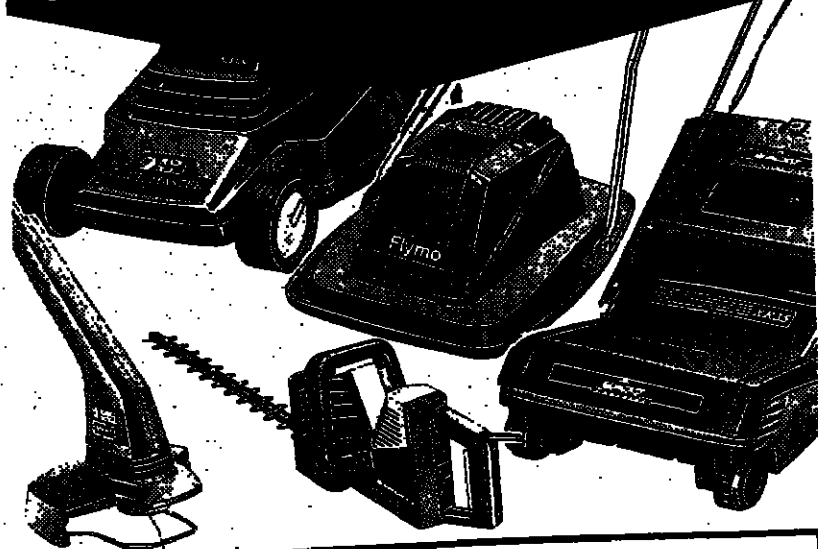
Houston: The crew of the orbiting Columbia space shuttle has tested a new miniature greenhouse called Astro-culture to learn more about growing crops to help sustain life in space. It circulates water and nutrients in weightless conditions. (AP)

### Giving voice

Ankara: The Turkish constitutional court, ruling in favour of a singer whose husband refused to let her go on stage, has upheld a decision that a law giving men the right to bar wives from working "made the woman a slave to the man". (Reuters)

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# UN to relieve Canadian troops at Sarajevo

BY MICHAEL BINTON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE United Nations is to send 1,500 French, Egyptian and Ukrainian troops to Sarajevo airport to relieve the Canadians now guarding it, Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, said yesterday.

The troops, symbolically representing the three religious communities in Bosnia-Herzegovina, will arrive shortly, allowing the Canadians eventually to rejoin the 14,000-strong UN peacekeeping force in Croatia. Dr Boutros Ghali made the announcement after talks here with Lord Carrington, head of the European Community peace mission, who will himself fly to Sarajevo today. Lord Carrington said leaders of the Serb, Croat and Muslim factions had agreed to meet him to discuss peace talks.

"That's a start," he said guardedly. "The first thing we must do is to try to get them to continue with the conference which was broken off a month ago." He is hoping to meet President Izetbegovic, the Bosnian president, Radovan Karadzic, the

Bosnian Serb leader, and a Croat team. Dr Boutros Ghali said the UN was looking at ways of strengthening co-operation with the EC over Yugoslavia. As a result, Lord Carrington will fly to New York next week to brief an informal meeting of the UN Security Council about his visit to Sarajevo.

Dr Boutros Ghali later met John Major to discuss his request for British support for his proposal that the UN should be given more power to prevent war, keep and monitor peace, and to take effective military sanctions against countries flouting UN resolutions. The secretary-general said his proposals, made in response to the January security council summit called by Britain, were not immediately applicable to the present conflict because of the complex situation in the former Yugoslav republics. It was too early for the UN to detail its future political strategy; the priority now was to establish a lasting ceasefire, provide humanitarian assistance and prevent the conflict spreading to other parts of what was Yugoslavia.

Dr Boutros Ghali said a settlement would take patience, time, imagination and money. He said that he had discussed arrangements for "beyond Sarajevo" with Lord Carrington, but he did not give details. He admitted some of his proposals to enhance the peacekeeping role of the UN were controversial, especially those on peace enforcement. This could involve sanctions and military action. Such "sticks" would not necessarily need to be used, but the possibility could affect the behaviour of countries engaged in hostilities.

The secretary-general also emphasised the need for the UN to engage in preventive diplomacy, intervening in tense situations before conflict began. Some countries might object but this would give the UN more time to prepare for peacekeeping forces. Member states should designate troops who could be on permanent standby for UN operations. And UN forces should have swift access to equipment and transport. At present even obtaining Jeeps was laborious.

Meanwhile the European Commission yesterday said it would give food aid valued at \$84 million to refugees in the former republics of Yugoslavia. A spokesman said that Brussels was also stepping up its programme to get food through to Sarajevo. Yesterday it ordered another 264 trucks to leave EC food surplus stores in southern Europe for Zagreb, in Croatia, from where transport aircraft will fly the food to Sarajevo airport. By the end of the month there will be 1,023 EC trucks carrying 5,760 tonnes of food aid to the besieged Bosnian capital.

Relief flight, page 1



Model army: a Serbian gunman using mannequins as decoys to flush out Muslim snipers during sporadic shooting yesterday in the Bosnian town of Brcko

## Walesa manoeuvre helps the farmers' champion survive

FROM ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

PRESIDENT Walesa yesterday refused to accept the resignation of the prime minister, Waldemar Pawlak, in a tactical game designed to help his government's chances of survival.

Mr Pawlak, who nervously presented his government programme on Wednesday, has yet to find a cabinet. He hopes to achieve this before President Bush visits Poland on Sunday.

For four weeks Mr Pawlak, leader of the Peasants party, has been trying to put together a lasting coalition. His best bet is a line-up that includes radical market reformers (the Liberal Democrats) and left-liberals (the Democratic Union). Under a formula agreed earlier this week, one of Mr Pawlak's deputies, Donald Tusk, would have come from the Liberal Democrats and another, Jacek Kuron, from the Democratic Union. Mr Pawlak's farmers panicked: they feared that giving so much power to a



Pawlak: still trying to find a cabinet team

Thatcherite economist like Mr Tusk would end cheap farm credits and other agricultural help. The dispute was so intense that Mr Pawlak was forced to apologise to admit that he still had no cabinet when he made his governmental keynote speech on Wednesday.

Early yesterday morning Mr Tusk visited the prime

minister and said his party was willing to give up the deputy premiership and thus save the government, but only if Thatcherites were given a substantial say in directly running the economy. Mr Pawlak agreed.

But in order to convince his own party he needed more explicit support from President Walesa, who appeared to be losing faith in a farmer-led government. The prime minister thus offered his resignation to the president yesterday morning, knowing that Mr Walesa would refuse.

The president has thus given the prime minister flanking support — he telephoned the parliamentary Speaker to say that he was not considering sacking Mr Pawlak — and a little more time. Mr Pawlak now believes he can have his government ready for tomorrow in time for an important, if short, visit to Warsaw by Mr Bush.

The problems of authority in Poland is similar to that in most East European societies. Freely elected parliaments are relishing their blocking power after decades of impotence, but they are also hopelessly fragmented.

● **Coup theory:** Polish government investigators believe they have found evidence to support President Walesa's claims that the former prime minister, Jan Olszewski, was planning to launch a coup last month. A secret interior ministry document outlines ways in which secret police dossiers with compromising information could be used to persuade politicians to back the Olszewski government.

President Walesa says that the ultimate aim was to unseat him and make Mr Olszewski a temporary president. Former ministers of the Olszewski cabinet yesterday denied the authenticity of the document.

## Russians tracked blip on radar instead of Rust

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

FIVE years after a German amateur pilot called Matthias Rust flew into Russia undetected and landed by the Kremlin, the half-hilarious, half-terrifying story of Soviet incompetence, buck-passing and confusion is being related in detail by *Pravda*.

The immediate effect of the young German's feat was the sacking of the Soviet defence minister and air defence chief, moves that President Gorbachev had probably sought anyway. *Pravda*, an erstwhile mouthpiece of communism which is struggling to adapt to the Yeltsin world, recently credited the cheeky youth with a more astonishing feat: setting in motion the destruction of the Soviet Union and its armed forces.

Yet the charge seems unfair. The country that emerges from the pages of the Matthias Rust file is far older than Lenin's empire and will outlive it. It would have been entirely familiar to the characters in 19th-century plays like Gogol's *The Government Inspector*. Mr Rust's entry into Soviet airspace from Finland was detected in good time by two radar watchers in central Asia. But Colonel Karpets, whom they informed, sat on the news for nearly 20 minutes, terrified of a reprimand for a false alarm.

A MIG-23 interceptor was finally sent up to find the plane, though with barely enough fuel to guide the intruder to a safe landing. But it at least located Mr Rust and the Soviet pilot duly reported to his boss, General Kromin, that "unidentified object number 8255" was in a slow-moving flight plane. Shortly afterwards, "object 8255" somehow crossed

paths on a radar screen with a similar looking — at least, fairly similar looking — blip, which may have been a balloon or a cloud formation. It was the second blip that Soviet radar tracked while Mr Rust flew on unimpeded.

Nobody seems to have been concerned by the fact that the second blip was bobbing wildly at five times the height and half the speed of the light plane that the MIG pilot had observed. As the object which was not the light aircraft neared Moscow, the files show how a bevy of generals conferring in utter confusion.

"Our conclusion is that it is a weather formation," declares General Gulev, reversing his equally firm conviction of two minutes earlier that weather formations were ruled out. His colleague, General Brazhnikov, suggests another theory: "Come on, try to remember how things are in the north and Lake Baikal — do geese fly for a long time?"

Easily convinced, General Gulev recalls that his colleagues in Leningrad had identified the object as a flight of birds. "We should go along with the Leningrad decision and show solidarity," he declares, half-joking. He finds it troubling that migrating birds are supposed to fly north, not south in the spring, but General Brazhnikov reassures him, insisting: "I think we will come to the conclusion that it was geese."

"Yes, sir, let it be that. Yes, sir," replies General Gulev, grasping at straws and blissfully unaware that his fatuous comments will be exposed to ridicule in newspapers for years after his army and his country are dead and gone.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Amato gets vote of confidence

Rome: The newly formed Italian government of the Socialist prime minister Giuliano Amato won a confidence vote in the Senate yesterday by a slim majority (John Phillips writes).

The four-party coalition of Socialists, Christian Democrats, Liberals and Social Democrats sworn in on Sunday, ending an 84-day power vacuum, won 173 votes for, 140 against. The minimum number of votes required to win the open roll call test was 157. Signor Amato's four parties were supported by former separatists from the Alto Adige region.

Signor Amato faces a second decisive confidence vote in the chamber of deputies tomorrow, timed to enable Italy to be represented at the upcoming G7 meeting.

## Arms removed

Washington: President Bush announced that the United States had completed its promised withdrawal of all ground and sea-launched tactical nuclear weapons based outside America. Mr Bush had given the pledge to do so last September.

## Treaty ratified

Kiev: Ukraine's parliament has ratified the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty signed in 1990 by Nato and the former Soviet Union. The treaty covers such weapons as tanks and armoured vehicles, artillery, combat aircraft and military helicopters. (AFP)

## Japanese arrive

Phnom Penh: Japanese army and navy officers arrived in Cambodia as part of a delegation charged with planning Japan's overseas military deployment. It was the first time that its officers were setting foot here since the second world war. (Reuters)

## Rivals crushed

Ulan Bator: The communist Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party crushed its democratic opponents by winning 70 of the 76 parliamentary seats in a 56.9 per cent poll in last Sunday's election, the electoral commission announced. (Reuters)

## Sex clubs shut

Manila: Alfredo Lim, the mayor of Manila, has vowed to end the city's image as one of cheap sex. Night clubs and bars in the capital have been closed, and he has warned sex club operators and drug dealers to "get out before you are carried out". (Reuters)

## Killer jailed

Phoenix: A man, 94, who killed two neighbours in a dispute over the volume of their stereo, was jailed for more than five years. Edward Mazy, partly deaf and confined to a wheelchair, had a murder charge reduced to attempted murder. (AP)

## Spy appeals

Washington: Lawyers for Jonathan Pollard, who confessed to spying for Israel and was given life imprisonment, have asked the US Supreme Court to review the sentence because the Court of Appeals applied the wrong legal test to a plea-bargain claim. (Reuters)

## Billy Graham crusades on with Parkinson's disease

The evangelist Billy Graham, 73, has developed Parkinson's disease, a non-fatal malady that leaves its victims with worsening tremors, stiffness and loss of movement, his spokesman said.

Larry Ross, in a statement issued through the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in Minneapolis, said Mr Graham has known for about three years he has had the disease. "His early manifestations were a mild tremor that causes difficulty in handwriting and some difficulty in gait and in descending steps without a rail," Mr Ross said. "Both symptoms improved significantly with a modest amount of medication. Otherwise, he is in excellent health and will continue his normal activities, such as crusades and writing, for the foreseeable future."

Indiana Jones has fought his last battle on the big screen, according to Harrison Ford, star of the Hollywood films, who said in

Belgium that there would not be a fourth film.

President Yeltsin of Russia will pay a state visit to Finland on July 10-11, the Finnish president's office said in Helsinki.

The actor Glenn Ford, 76, had successful surgery to remove large blood clots that had been threatening his life, but is still in an intensive care unit in Los Angeles.

Thailand's last elected prime minister, Chuan Choochavan, deposed in a military coup last year, returned to Bangkok from London but said he was reluctant to take up active politics again ahead of elections scheduled for September 13.

Israel's housing minister, Ariel Sharon, 64, is having hospital checks in Tel Aviv after suffering severe pain from kidney stones, a doctor said.

Spain's best-loved flamenco singer, Camaron de la Isla, has died of lung cancer in a Barcelona clinic, doctors said. He was 41.

A Japanese newspaper poll said that most Japanese believe Emperor Akihito should visit China this year despite concerns among ruling Liberal Democrats that it could cause Tokyo political embarrassment.

China's atomic bomb pioneer, Qian Sanqiang, has died in Peking of a heart attack, aged 79, the semi-official China News Service said.

Queen Beatrix of Holland will visit Scotland in August with her husband Prince Claus.

The former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos made a 63rd birthday pledge to co-operate with newly-installed President Ramos and said she hoped to settle her court cases with his government.

## Moldavia launches propaganda fight

FLYING into Kishinev from Moscow used to be something akin to arriving in Bordeaux from London: a little provincial, a little noisy, but balmy, colourful and Latin in feel. As of ten days ago, however, this city of parks and Castel architecture has been touched by war.

After dark, suburban streets are deserted. At best, half the lighting is switched on. A petrol shortage threatens. The gas supply has been cut; the pipeline runs through the Transnistrian region, loyal to Moscow.

In the central market, young men in new khaki uniforms stride through the cherry sellers to shake hands with former schoolmates and bid them farewell. They are off to fight.

The town of Bender is only 25 miles from Kishinev. In London or Moscow it would hardly be beyond the outer reaches of the city. Even here, in this new state barely 70 miles wide, it is just down the road. For the people of Kishinev, it means that armed conflict will come to them next.

Some are sanguine. "If we want our independence, we are going to have to fight for it. We must be prepared to pay the cost," says a Moldavian taxi driver in flawless Russian. Others are near panic. "We never imagined it would come to war. Molda-

Moldavians feel that the world is only listening to Russia and not to them. Mary Dejevsky writes from Kishinev

vians are just not a war-like nation. We have done anyone any harm," says a ministerial assistant.

The events which led to the recent deaths in Bender comprise a sequence of long-standing resentments, unleashed frustrations, and vast quantities of military hardware that all came together just as the Moldavians thought they were securing peace. Now, with several hundred dead, more injured and self-righteous calls to Kishinev from Moscow to observe the ceasefire agreed in Istanbul, Moldavians feel that the world is not listening and is hearing only Russia, the new power.

This is why Ion Costas, the defence minister, agreed to see me. It is why the foreign minister, Nicolae Tiu, also made time to see me and why President Snegur took time to answer questions from Moldavian and foreign reporters. Moldavia wants its message to be heard directly, closer to the filter of Moscow. Russia, Kishinev claims, has its own interests to defend, and they include keeping the small strip of land on the left bank of the Dniester even though, under the agree-



TRANSNISTRIA  
Kishinev  
Bender  
Dniester  
ROMANIA  
BLACK SEA

ment which established the Commonwealth of Independent States, this territory belongs to Moldavia. One way in which Russia defends its interest is through what the Moldavian foreign minister calls the "vacuum of information" which Moldavia cannot counter. Another is through the presence of the 14th army without which, the Moldavian defence minister asserts, the self-proclaimed republic of Transnistria would fall.

For Kishinev, the dispute with Russia that comes ever closer to outright war is not ethnic as Moscow would have the world believe, but political about control and power. "Just look at the figures,"

says Mr Tiu. "In the Transdnestr, the population is 28 per cent Ukrainian, 23 per cent Russian and 41 per cent Moldavian. There is no Russian majority. And why is it that Moldavians and Russians and Ukrainians live happily side by side in the rest of Moldavia where there are quarters of Russians live?"

The reason given by every Moldavian is that Transdnestr has been cultivated, first by Soviet conservatives, now by Russia, to guard its strategic interests and make life difficult for the westward-looking Moldavians. They note that heavy industry is concentrated in the Transdnestr, that most enterprises, educational establishments and administrative bodies are headed by Russians with Moldavians in a tiny minority.

Moldavians deny that their country is being helped militarily by Romania. "This is a tissue of lies," snorted President Snegur yesterday. "Just another pretext for Russia to keep a hold on Transdnestr." His defence minister concurs. That said, there is no disguising Moldavia's leaning towards Romania and the contempt for Russia. On the central square anti-Russian posters and cartoons adorn the railings. "Soviet Russia," appeals a huge red and white banner, "stop the aggression. Leave us in peace."

1992/07/03



# Handpicked judges abandon the anti-abortion lobby



O'Connor: accused of being in wimp block

CRIS of "Judas" could be heard on the steps of the Supreme Court in Washington earlier this week as anti-abortion campaigners realised that three conservative justices had voted to uphold the historic 1973 Roe v Wade ruling that first enshrined abortion as a constitutional right.

Sandra Day O'Connor, David Souter and Anthony Kennedy, the three justices, altered the script conservatives thought they had been given when chosen by Ronald Reagan and George Bush to serve on the Supreme Court bench. The three are now being called the court's "wimp block" by conservatives angry at what they see as a betrayal.

For the past 12 years, the Republican White House has been trying to build a

The White House is finding that it has confused conservative jurisprudence with conservative convictions, writes  
**Jamie Dettmer from Washington**

solid right-wing majority in the Supreme Court. The fierce Democratic reaction to President Bush's nomination of Clarence Thomas as a justice last autumn was a last-ditch attempt to prevent the establishment of a working conservative majority in the court.

When the black federal judge was appointed, despite the allegations against him by a law professor of sexual harassment, the liberals were downcast and could see years of reactionary court rulings ahead that would quickly destroy Roe v Wade

and undermine general liberal precedents established by the court under the leadership of Justices William Brennan and Thurgood Marshall, both now retired. Justice Harry Blackmun, 83, who is the sole remaining Supreme Court member of the original Roe v Wade majority, mused privately to friends that it was odd he was now considered a liberal. "It is the court that has shifted, not me," he said. He complained bitterly, and again privately, about Clarence Thomas's appointment and has been proved right in

seeing the Bush-appointed justice as just a creature of Justice Antonin Scalia, the most right-wing Supreme Court member. "Pity Nino (Scalia's nickname) has two votes," Justice Blackmun said recently. In 86 per cent of cases, Justice Thomas has concurred with Justice Scalia, a Reagan appointment.

The court's abortion decision was a rude shock to Republicans and confirmed the 1991-92 Supreme Court as the conservative revolution that wasn't. "The court is the dog that didn't bark," Alan Slobodin, a lawyer with the conservative Washington Legal Foundation, said. A series of rulings last week gave the first inkling that the centre of gravity in the court had shifted from the right to the centre. Justices O'Connor, Kennedy

and Souter joined the liberals. Justices Blackmun and John Stevens, in banning prayers at school graduation ceremonies and in rejecting a Bush administration attempt to make it harder for defendants to appeal to federal courts against state court convictions. "There has been a realignment to the centre that takes from the solid conservative court we thought we had," Paul Kamenar, executive director of the Washington Legal Foundation, said.

The so-called wimp block has been accused by conservatives of being swayed by popular sentiment. That is not true. The block's judicial philosophy is in fact conservative. They believe in the stability of the law and are unhappy about overturning

previous court decisions without good legal reasons. The Reagan and Bush administrations made the mistake of confusing conservative judicial philosophy with conservative convictions.

The realignment has also received considerable momentum from personality clashes. "The centre trio are increasingly shifting away from the four right-wing justices — William Rehnquist, Scalia, Thomas and Byron White — because they are embarrassed by them," a Supreme Court clerk says. "They just do not like the company of those four. They were also mortified by Clarence Thomas's appointment, which they considered a farce."

The prickly and aggressive Justice Scalia has not helped in soothing the tensions. He

was quoted recently as saying: "What's a bright man like me doing in a place like this?" Justice O'Connor upbraided him about the comment. He has even ruffled the feathers of his erstwhile ally, Justice White. He said in court recently that he would quote from one of Justice White's opinions — "something one does not often bother to do."

According to court sources, Justice Souter was intending to vote against Roe, but was persuaded to back a constitutional abortion right by former Justice William Brennan, who retired from the court two years ago because of ill health. Monday's decision came after intense negotiations between Justice Blackmun and the newly emerging middle block.

## Bush accuses Democrats of resorting to dirty tricks

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE White House yesterday accused Bill Clinton and the Democratic party of resorting to dirty tricks worthy of Watergate as the 1992 presidential campaign grew ever more poisonous.

"First Perot, now the Democrats. The 'Plumbers' are back," declared Martin Fletcher, the White House press secretary, after it was disclosed that the Democrats had hired private investigators to search for damaging information on President Bush. The "Plumbers" were the Nixon administration's team of covert operators who broke into the Democratic national committee's sixth floor headquarters in the Watergate building.

The disclosure in *The Washington Post* delighted the White House, which had managed last week to stall Ross Perot's recent surge in the opinion polls by focusing attention on the Texas tycoon's use of private investigators. With Mr Clinton beginning to recover in the polls, the White House, eager to distract attention from

more economic bad news yesterday, wasted no time exploiting this opportunity.

Mr Fletcher's highly-charged comment was offered without any prompting from reporters. President Bush himself, during a visit to Capitol Hill, was equally forthright. "Let them muck around in my garbage can, but they aren't going to find anything," he said. According to the *Post*, the Democratic national committee was spending \$30,000 (£16,000) on private investigations "in a wide-ranging effort to find information that might undermine President Bush's record — including delving into the president's personal finances and looking for possible improprieties in government dealings with Bush relatives."

The report said that the Democrats believed that the administration's past dealings with Mr Bush's family could prove particularly fertile ground, especially its handling of the 1988 closure of the bankrupt Silverado Savings and Loan Company whose directors had included the president's son, Neil Bush. It has long been alleged that the closure was delayed until after the 1988 election to avoid President Bush any political embarrassment.

The Democrats acknowledged hiring two firms of investigators but denied any impropriety. "We hired the firms to look into the largest financial scandal in our nation's history," a spokeswoman said. "There are legitimate questions as to whether the Bush administration provided preferential treatment to members of the Bush family in the Silverado case."

Mr Bush insisted yesterday that the Republicans would "stay out of the sleaze business", but in truth both parties devote huge resources to what is known as "opposition research". It was the Republicans who pioneered the practice by digging up dirt on Geraldine Ferraro, the vice-presidential candidate, and her husband, in 1984, and exploited the Willie Horton affair that undermined Michael Dukakis in 1988.

Mr Clinton, meanwhile, is reported to have narrowed his list of potential running-mates to four, with Senator Al Gore of Tennessee and Congressman Lee Hamilton of Indiana as the frontrunners. The other two are Harris Wofford, the surprise winner of last autumn's Pennsylvania Senate by-election, and Nebraska Senator Bob Kerrey who had also sought the presidential nomination earlier this year. Mr Gore and Mr Hamilton have both provided Mr Clinton with financial and other personal records. Mr Hamilton confirmed that he was "very interested" and had had a meeting with Mr Clinton.

Los Angeles US Navy commanders in 1955 said that Mr Perot was too immature to be a career officer after he had requested an early discharge. But their comments were stricken from his record, the *Los Angeles Times* reported yesterday. Rear Admiral J.C. Daniel, commander of destroyer forces in the Atlantic fleet, wrote that Lieutenant Perot "is too immature to be entrusted with the leadership responsibilities inherent in sea duty". Mr Perot was a graduate of the US Naval Academy. (AP)

## Last squatters evicted in Kowloon

FROM JONATHAN BRAUDER IN HONG KONG

THE Kowloon Walled City, Hong Kong's once teeming den of drug addicts, prostitutes and criminals, stands empty this morning, for the second time in its 94-year history.

Enclosed in a newly erected fence where the famous wall once stood, its deserted buildings await the demolition teams. Eventually the site will be turned into a park.

Scores of riot police yesterday moved in with shields and clubs to evict the last remaining squatters from a hastily-erected encampment on the perimeter. They occupied a small Buddhist temple at the entrance and surrounded about 20 former Walled City residents who had made their homes in on the pavement since being evicted from the interior six months ago. Ten people had to be dragged from their keroside dwellings, many of them struggling, and one woman was arrested for assaulting a government worker.

They were the last to go. On Wednesday, in a nine-hour operation, six households were forcibly removed from their homes in the final section of the city to be cleared while others left peacefully, though with obvious reluctance.

Under the original lease, China refused to allow its garrison from the old Qing Dynasty fort on the site and the seven-acre Walled City remained beyond British jurisdiction. But when the garrison was finally ejected a few years later, Britain chose not to develop or police the area for fear of offending Peking. For more than 80 years, the labyrinthine streets of the City were a no-man's land beyond the control of either government.

Soon squatters — escapees from Chinese or British justice and taxes — moved in. They received no services or rights, but lived in squalor until they were driven out by the Japanese. But after the surrender of the Japanese empire, the squatters came back in force.

In another milestone today Lord Wilson of Tillymorn, the outgoing governor, flies out of the British colony for the last time this evening leaving his successor, Chris Patten, to take over the reins of power at one of the most difficult and sensitive periods in the territory's 150-year history. Lord Wilson will leave with full ceremonial honours but the verdict on his five years in power is still open.

Undoubtedly an efficient administrator, with a detailed grasp of every aspect of policy, he presided over boom years interrupted only briefly by the 1987 stock market crash and the consequences of the 1989 upheavals in China. But for



Strongarm tactics: a young girl grapples with a policewoman trying to evict her yesterday from Hong Kong's Walled City. The site will be turned into a park

many his tenure was a disaster, which allowed China to extend its power over Hong Kong and crush all hope of democratic reform in a colony Britain has ruled as a benevolent dictatorship.

His detractors say he failed to stand up for the development of parliamentary democracy, and his constant fear of pushing China too far soon taught the authorities in Peking that Hong Kong could be intimidated and

brought to heel. He was, in the words of a retired senior civil servant John Walden, "the best governor of Hong Kong China ever had".

He won friends in the colony with his pressure in London for full United Kingdom passports for all 3.2 million Hong Kong British citizens, his support for the environment and his ambitious proposal for a new airport, conceived as a move to boost morale in Hong Kong

after China's suppression in Tiananmen square.

However the airport backfired seriously, leaving Peking with the power to veto the project by the simple expedient of scaring away international investors. China could thus blackmail Britain into conceding valuable bargaining points and sending John Major on an official visit to Peking at a time when China had barely come in from the diplomatic cold.

## 'Security man' was Boudiaf assassin

FROM ALFRED HERMIDA IN ALGERIA

DETAILS being leaked about the assassination of Muhammad Boudiaf suggest that it was the result of an intricate conspiracy.

Algeria's military backed a claim by the authorities that the assassin, a sub-lieutenant in the counter-espionage services, was one of the president's bodyguards whose unit was on duty when Mr Boudiaf visited eastern Algeria on Monday. Unconfirmed reports said the assassin had confessed, claiming that he was acting from religious conviction.

"Boudiaf was a communist and an enemy of Islam," one newspaper quoted him as saying. Another newspaper identified him as a 26-year-old from the town of Meskiana, a fundamentalist stronghold in the east of Algeria. The newspaper said that one of his schoolteachers, Ali Djeddi, was among the leaders of the fundamentalist Muslim party, the Islamic Salvation Front, who had been jailed.

"The man [alleged assassin] was a closet fundamentalist," said a former government official. "He was acting on his own and the secret services have not been infiltrated."

The zeal with which the authorities are pushing the theory of a lone Islamic assassin has led to suspicion here that the regime is trying to cover up details. The popular view is that Mr Boudiaf was killed on orders from the "mafia" — government officials and managers of public enterprises who have been stealing from the state for the past 30 years.

Some estimates say that as much as \$26 billion (£13.6 billion), the size of Algeria's foreign debt, has been siphoned off by corrupt officials who saw Mr Boudiaf's anti-corruption drive as a threat to their privileges.

First-hand accounts of the assassination suggest that it involved several people. Witnesses said a gunman in police uniform stepped from behind a curtain on the stage where Mr Boudiaf was speaking and fired two shots into the president. The bodyguards recognised him as one of them and hesitated before shooting. Moments later a second gunman fired on officials in the front row of the hall, injuring 41 people.

Mr Boudiaf's family has demanded a full enquiry. "It was a set-piece assassination, prepared in advance," said one of Mr Boudiaf's sons. "Everyone has to know who killed him and why."

## De Klerk appeals for joint summit

FROM REUTER IN PRETORIA

PRESIDENT de Klerk yesterday accused the African National Congress (ANC) of aiming to seize power in South Africa and said that his government would not tolerate it.

"The ANC is fabricating reasons to break off negotiations and to cause an artificial crisis," he said in a national radio address. "This is because it and its allies... have decided to follow their own agenda for the seizure of power. This will not be tolerated." He appealed for calm, saying: "We will not allow our country to become ungovernable."

He appealed to Nelson Mandela and Chief Mangosuthu Buthe of the Inkatha Freedom Party to join him in a summit to address "fundamental issues". He said the meeting could consider a joint monitoring body for the violence and a possible observer role for the international community.

In his radio address, Mr de Klerk said the government was irrevocably committed to a peaceful and negotiated solution and "will do anything which may be necessary to ensure such an outcome."

Yesterday South African police told an enquiry into the Boipatong township massacre that the killing was carried out by up to 300 inmates of a nearby workers' hostel, a known stronghold of the Inkatha Freedom Party.

The ANC told Judge Richard Goldstone that it was having difficulty getting witnesses to talk about the June 17 killing of 43 men, women and children, which has caused a political impasse. The ANC has broken off talks with the government in protest at alleged collusion between security forces and Inkatha at Boipatong.

Tokyo Senzale, an ANC regional leader, whose movement initially accused police of helping the killers, produced no evidence to support the charge. He said the important point was not "who pulled the trigger", but why the government had failed to prevent the massacre from happening.

A senior policeman, Major Christo Davidson, said there was no evidence of involvement by any political group.

He said that the main cause for the attack was rivalry between the ANC and Inkatha, adding that several Inkatha members had been murdered the fortnight before. "This resulted in an extremely hostile attitude of hostel residents towards township residents," he said.

## Star-crossed Japanese surrender to the celebrity sell

Joanna Pitman ordered a cup of tea in Wajima, Japan, and was transformed into actress Jodie Foster

JELLY Madonna, a coffee shop in the sleepy town of Wajima, had served foreign customers only once in the past three years. So when an Englishwoman walked in recently and asked for a cup of tea the place was thrown into pandemonium.

"Most definitely and with great pleasure. I am proceeding with your honourable order at once," hazarded a young waiter, having trouble suppressing a burst of nervous giggles. Rushing off to give his colleagues the extraordinary news that "it speaks Japanese", he snatched back wearing a beautiful expression and a fresh smile as he said: "We are unbecomingly happy to be honoured with your visit."

He performed a crisp bow and turned for encourage-

ment to the gaggle of waiters and chefs whose grinning faces peered round the door of the kitchen. Perplexed but secretly rather flattered, the foreigner broke the news of her humble, glamour-free newspaper profession and the crestfallen staff retreated behind a glass door, still determined to scrutinise every movement of their captive foreigner, even if they had to admit that her only resemblance to the Hollywood star lay in the pallor of her skin.

When it comes to foreign celebrities, the Japanese have a passion that is irrepressible if not discerning.

same league as Eddie Murphy, paid \$3 million (£1.6 million) for 15 seconds. Day Lewis is reputed to have earned a sum every bit as handsome as his face.

Sean Connery has triggered a storm in his native Scotland for being so unpatriotic as to advertise Suntory whisky. Sacrilegious as this may sound, Connery has banked colossal sums for five or six seconds of sipping a 12-year Suntory on television, effectively reversing the decades-long efforts of the Scotch whisky industry to get into the Japanese whisky market.

Last week Mickey Rourke took the remunerative prospects of foreign celebrities one step further when he appeared in a Tokyo boxing match against an unknown Indian, for which he is said to have been paid \$1 million. Kirk Douglas sniffs



Foster: waiters were unbecomingly happy

instant coffee on posters across the country, and Charles Bronson splashes himself with Mandom aftershave. Sophia Loren straddles a Honda and Olivia Hussey pouts with lips coloured by Kanebo.

There is to be no more surreptitious snooping over the export promotions statistics for Japan's hard-working salarymen. Having developed the ability to drop off to sleep in any situation, the perpetually weary salaryman can no longer nap with impunity because a rather unporting company called LossGen has developed an electronic device designed to keep dozy workers on their toes.

Worn on the hand, the machine contains a sensor in a finger ring which sets off an alarm on the wrist if the finger stops moving. "We discovered that when people doze off it is the fingers which stop moving first," said Kozo Yamada, LossGen's president. "The device is for office workers, drivers and students, who underperform because they keep falling asleep."



## Riddle of a birth date

Ben Macintyre on a row about the sphinx's age

Archaeologists have a knack of undermining historians, to the satisfaction of the former and the frustration of the latter. For while a newly discovered document usually supplements existing historical "truths", archaeological finds, backed by sophisticated new technology, tend to demolish them. It is the point at which the art and the science of history collide.

In the latest such collision, Egyptologists are divided over a discovery which threatens a complete revision of the discipline itself and centres on the most famous symbol of ancient Egypt: the inscrutable face of the sphinx. Scholars have hitherto believed that the Sphinx of Giza was built by an Old Kingdom Pharaoh named Chephren (or Khafre) in about 2500 BC, an assumption based on the supposed resemblance between the sphinx's weather-beaten features and the face of a perfectly-preserved statue of Chephren in a Cairo museum. The great flowering of Egyptian culture is dated from about 3000 BC, and the sphinx is taken to be its acme. The man who has challenged and possibly destroyed that view is neither a historian nor an archaeologist, but a New York policeman.

Last year Detective Frank Domingo, senior forensic artist with the New York Police Department, travelled to Egypt with a team of experts. Following police procedures normally used to identify criminals or people whose faces have been unconsciously damaged, he produced an artist's impression of how the sphinx would have looked before rain and wind (and vandals) eroded its facial features. Mr Domingo then compared his picture with the facial structure of the Chephren statue, and after reviewing various drawings, schematics and measurements, concluded: "If the ancient Egyptians were skilled technicians and capable of duplicating images, then these two works cannot represent the same individual."

A comparison of Mr Domingo's two pictures shows that the sphinx had a slight double chin, while the Chephren statue had a longer nose and more prominent forehead. The sphinx, announced the detective, was a victim of mistaken identity. But if the sphinx is not Chephren, then who is it, and more importantly, when was it constructed? Domingo's findings are backed up by a growing team of scientists, who argue that the sphinx is thousands of years older than traditionally believed.

A Boston University geologist, Dr Robert M. Schoch, has shown that the weathering on the sphinx is more extreme than on other limestone structures of the Old Kingdom period. Rain was the principal cause of decay, and if the sphinx was made earlier, when the climate was damper, that would explain its more ravaged state. Dr Schoch argues that an earlier civilisation was responsible for carving the vast statue, at some time between 5000 and 7000 BC, Chephren merely adding finishing touches.

His theory has been supported by geophysicists from Houston, led by Dr Thomas L. Dobecki, who used sound waves developed for measuring earthquake tremors to penetrate the limestone floor around the sphinx. He concluded that the sphinx's face and flanks are twice as weather-beaten as its rump and were therefore carved much earlier. "Profound technical knowledge went into building the sphinx," wrote Egyptologist John Anthony West in *The New York Times* recently. "If the revisionist theory is correct, this implies that pre-Egyptian culture was more sophisticated than we ever imagined and that our ideas about social evolution and world history will need radical overhauling."

The new theory has been greeted with scepticism by Lord Renfrew, Master of Jesus College and professor of archaeology at Cambridge, whose own archaeological discoveries overturned many established theories. He questions the methods used so far. "If you're going to say the sphinx represents an earlier civilisation, you need a more accurate measurement than weathering on limestone," he says. But the evidence for a civilisation that predates the pharaohs is mounting, and traditionalists and revolutionaries are preparing to do battle. And if the new findings do revise all our ideas about ancient Egypt, then the last remaining riddle of the sphinx may be solved.

Lord Alexander warns that the EC's concept of subsidiarity is far too vague for the English courts

## Pinning Europe down

accepted European law as dominant in the areas of their competence, so as to be a part of such a grouping and drive forward to the single market. Our pooling of sovereignty was hard-headed and a recognition of where our advantage lay.

Its effect is that in those areas the Community is not simply an association of member states or an inter-governmental organisation: European law is superior to and overrides our national law. The European Court of Justice has described these enactments as a "definitive limitation of sovereign rights". Withdrawal from the Community is a legal option, but for most of us unthinkable.

The position of defence, foreign affairs and internal security is different. They are outside the remit of the Treaty of Rome, and are inter-governmental. This was one of the achievements of our government in the negotiations leading up to Maastricht. The concept of subsidiarity

has arisen to limit the freedom of European institutions to interpret the extent of their own law-making powers. It is a counterpoint to the limited surrender of sovereignty, reinforcing and clarifying the limitations. As Jacques Delors himself has said, there is "a natural tendency of the centre to accumulate power". The subsidiarity principle is the countervailing force to this tendency. In simple terms, it marks the boundary beyond which the Commission shall not pass.

Such a doctrine needs to be firm and clear. But is it? Lord Mackenzie-Stuart, former president of the European Court of Justice, has said that the Maastricht Treaty embodies two opposite concepts of subsidiarity. Some lawyers think it confuses three such concepts (the tests of absolute necessity, of more effective attainment, and of better attainment), hardly a promising start to the search for legal certainty.

Some argue that the court will be sensitive to the wish of nations to avoid over-centralisation. But there is always a danger that courts of centralised communities will gradually adjust their vision to focus more sympathetically upon the concerns of central authorities than on those of member states. Popular opinion and fashion change, and there is no guarantee that all countries will always be so conscious of national rights and cultures as they are today. Courts are influenced by fashions, as the ebb and flow of the tide in America's Supreme Court has often shown, most recently over abortion.

So we cannot simply trust the court to be forever vigilant to preserve the rights of states. But over and above this there are grave legal doubts about the way a court might approach the subsidiarity doctrine. Only recently, Professor John Usher warned the parliamentary select committee on the European

Community that the court may well say that subsidiarity is "non-judicial". He also said: "If the Council wants to do it, the Court is unlikely to intervene."

David Vaughan, QC, and David Anderson, leading specialists in European law, told the committee the new principle is "almost incapable of any exact definition or application" and will be "the cause of much litigation and uncertainty".

In any event, courts are traditionally reluctant to interfere with administrative decisions. Despite the extension of the reach of administrative law over the last 25 years, the English courts do not second-guess decisions, but limit themselves to deciding solely whether the decision-makers have acted within the ambit of their reasonable powers. The courts are concerned with the legality and not the broad merits of the decision. Nor is this an abdication of judicial responsibility. The func-

tion of a court under separation of powers is to constrain decision-makers within the ambit of their constitutional powers, not to substitute its own view of the administrative issues involved. That would be to usurp the role of the executive.

So a general doctrine of subsidiarity is not enough to give clarity to the law and comfort the member states. We need — and there are precedents for this in written constitutions — demarcation lines and definitions that establish which areas are for national as opposed to central action. Administrative procedures guidelines are not enough unless they meet the test of clarity and are given the force of law. The law must be a rock upon which a citizen may safely set his foot.

Subsidiarity is at the moment but a shifting and swirling sand. The admirable balance Mr Major seeks needs a clear, precise protocol. This, rather than a referendum, can truly reassure us that we are right to be at the heart of Europe.

The author is a QC and the chairman of National Westminster Bank.

## Whitehall's lion loses its roar

Despite appearances, Brussels already has the upper hand in key policy areas, says Peter Riddell

The way Britain is governed has changed. Television news this week showed Jacques Delors and other European commissioners travelling to London to hear ministers talk about Britain's plans for its presidency of the community. The intended impression was that John Major had taken charge to sort out the Eurocrats. The British lion was about to raise its claws, if not to roar, which would not be Mr Major's style. The reality is the opposite. Brussels has the initiative. Forget last night's warning about the dangers of the Maastricht agreement from Baroness Thatcher of Kesteven in her maiden speech — "I have never knowingly made an uncontroversial speech in my life." Whatever happens this autumn over the treaty, the EC already permeates life in Whitehall.

A recurrent phrase in almost every conversation I have with senior civil servants is "nobody realises how much time we spend dealing with the EC." One permanent secretary is now regarded by his colleagues as a born-again Euro-bore, always complaining about Brussels after a ruling from the EC forced his department into reviewing a central plank of social policy, at a cost of a few billion pounds.

If you stroll around the Whitehall village, you can gauge the impact. The Foreign Office and Agriculture and Fisheries are dominated by EC affairs; the Home Office resists pressure to dismantle internal border controls; Employment battles over the working time and parental leave directives; Social Security has to implement the European ruling on the same retirement age for men and women; Transport seeks greater liberalisation of European air traffic; Trade and Industry presses for completion of both the Uruguay round

of the Gatt talks and the single market; and Environment argues about fair implementation of EC directives.

The Treasury faces the greatest constraints. Seldom can a chancellor of the exchequer have had less freedom of manoeuvre than Norman Lamont has now. On monetary policy, his hands are tied by Britain's membership of the exchange-rate mechanism. That will be credible as an anti-inflationary discipline only if governments stick to current parties. There has been talk about reducing interest rates to below German levels, but nobody in Whitehall believes there is room for more than a very small cut in rates. A unilateral devaluation might risk higher, rather than lower, interest rates. Fiscal policy is also in a straitjacket, since public borrowing has risen sharply. About two-thirds of the

increase reflects the recession, but a third is the result of the pre-election relaxation of spending controls, and the government wants to reduce borrowing below the limits in the European guidelines. So almost all options are closed.

Mr Lamont is in the unenviable position of the man promising that the cheque is in the post. He did not incur the original debt, but he is being blamed for the late payment. Tory MPs are becoming restless about the deferred hopes of recovery.

The chancellor's flexibility in fixing indirect taxes is also restricted. Mr Lamont this week had to concede the principle that the EC can set a minimum 15 per cent rate of VAT, although the directive is limited to four years and requires unanimity to be reimposed. The decision also makes little practi-

cal difference, since the British rate is 17½ per cent and exemptions have already been won for food and children's clothing.

The implications are, however, the same as those that arose last week with Gillian Shephard's negotiations over the working time directive. However hard-fought, and unavoidable the compromise on any specific issue, most key decisions now have to be taken in an EC context. No wonder Mrs Shephard has been brushing up her French. Fluency in negotiations with EC counterparts will be as important a part of the life of an employment secretary as beer and sandwiches with trade union leaders was 20 years ago. These changes are largely because of the single market, and will be little altered by the Maastricht treaty.

The ever-widening remit of the EC has contributed to a

largely unappreciated shift in the balance of power within Whitehall. The previous dominance of the Treasury is under challenge. Not only is its room for discretion on macro-economic policy restricted by the ERM, but the Bank of England is relishing the prospect of wielding greater authority in any moves towards an independent central bank. The Treasury's traditional powers are also threatened, and it is fighting back. The Treasury has sought to limit decentralisation of control over spending and pay negotiations to the new executive agencies in the "Next Steps" initiative, and has imposed controls on local councils.

The arrival of Mr Major as prime minister has, paradoxically, posed a challenge to the Treasury. Although over exchange-rate policy Mrs Thatcher

disagreed with the Treasury in the late 1980s, on other issues she fixed up decisions with her chancellors. Despite Mr Major's sympathies with the Treasury, his premiership has seen a revival of cabinet government, or rather of departmental government. Ministers now feel able to assert themselves against either Number Ten or the Treasury. This year's spending review will show how far the Treasury can reassert its control.

The old textbooks about Whitehall and Treasury dominance will have to be rewritten. Instead, we are seeing a diffusion of power. Baroness Thatcher may fulminate against Brussels, but she allowed the incursions to happen. Her speech yesterday was as much an admission of having conceded powers as a protest against Maastricht.



...and moreover

ALAN COREN

When the police break down the door, I shall be ready. Even as their head-lock closes, my em-purpuling throat will gurgle the explanation that I am writing a book on suburban guttering. Since my birthday last Saturday, my working life has undergone a major change: the unworking part of it has expanded by a factor of 10 x 25. This is what is written on the flank of the new binoculars which my wife gave me for that birthday. No ordinary binoculars either, but pocket ones, capably tiny, which come, moreover, with their own pocket, a looped pouch that affixes to your belt and snaps open at the touch of a thumb to its Velcro fastening. With practice, you can do the business in a single smooth movement — thumb swings up, flap snaps open, fingers pluck out binoculars, still-flowing swing sweeps binoculars up to eyes, whole world is 10x nearer. A top binocular-slinger could probably get this down to under a second; if Wyatt Earp had had a pair the gunfight at the OK Corral would have been finished 10x quicker. he would have spotted the lurking Clantons while they were still buckling their holsters on.

My wife did not of course buy them so I could go to Tombstone, she bought them so I could go to Lord's, where they will collaborate with the ear-phoned radio which I already fix to my belt, and thereby make live cricket almost as good as

television. Since, however, I also fix to my belt the pouch containing the Swiss army knife I need to de-cork bottles, open tins, slice cheese, peel fruit and do all the other things Swiss soldiers do at Test matches, there may be a problem: the next time I take my jacket off, the crowd will see a man with a pack-ages, one with wires hanging out, and may well conclude, given the times we live in, that the man is about to explode himself, leading to no end of alarm, confusion and serious professional embarrassment to commentators unable to recall the last time a human bomb stopped play.

Still, should this happen and some hysterical steward be disposed to call the police, all fears will instantly be allayed. "Oh, him?" they will say. "Don't worry about him, he's writing a book on suburban guttering." For the fact is that I have been wearing the binoculars since Saturday (what grown man wouldn't?), with the result that they sit on my hip as I back up here in the loft, with the further result that I now back 10x less than usual. Hitherto, distractions have been limited by my vision, so that my attention was unable to wander further than the end of my garden; now, however, it is able to wander not only to the ends of gardens 10x further away, it is able to wander beyond Crickwood altogether. With the flick of a thumb, I can be on the balcony of a tower block in Hendon, oh look, that woman is watering a window-

box, I wonder what her relationship is with the bloke painting the railings of the flat next door, they seem to have a bit of a giggle, hello, they have both nipped inside, funny, he's only just started that job, shall I get on with this sentence or wait to see if she draws her curtains. . . . It cannot last. We have all seen the films. We know what sun does on binoculars. It glints on them. Soon after it glints on them, two things happen to a canyon: the echo of a shot rings round it, and a man with binoculars falls into it. I do not say that matters would exactly follow this pattern in Crickwood, but we can discount neither the echo of a truncheon ringing round a loft, nor a man with binoculars falling into the local paper, he looked normal to us, say neighbours, just shows you. All of which may explain why Minolta include with their instructions a questionnaire for the recipient to complete and return. This wants to know not only my name, address, age, sex, profession, income and favourite newspaper, but also what prompted me to buy binoculars. Clearly, they are giving me the pre-emptive chance to mark my own card, in the event of court proceedings.

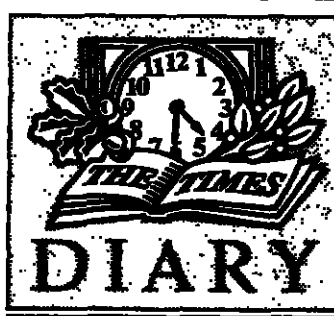
Alternatively, it might just have something to do with marketing: in which case, do not be surprised if you open our favourite newspaper any day now to see a Minolta advert declaring that its binoculars are de rigueur for anyone writing a book on suburban guttering.

## Peace in The Times

JOHN KENNEDY, the 27-year-old former Tory parliamentary candidate, is already being hailed as the Kissinger of Yugoslavia after being singled out by the leader of the Bosnian Serbs for his help in bringing about the latest peace initiative. Kennedy was named in the ceasefire letter in *The Times* this week by Dr Radovan Karadzic as one of two Western Europeans most influential in the peace process. The other was President Mitterrand.

While Lord Carrington has been leading high-profile EC peace missions to Belgrade, Kennedy has been working quietly behind the scenes. He has been to Yugoslavia 12 times in the past year, and has had access to Slobodan Milosevic, "the hammer of the Croats", as well as all the opposition leaders. Kennedy, who contested Barking for the Tories at the election, but lost, is a distant relative of the exiled Yugoslav royal family, and fluent in Serbian. Now running a public relations company, he is flattered by the reference. "I am pleased if I have been of some use. Because I do not represent any vested interest, what I say is regarded as impartial."

One of his greatest diplomatic services came last year, when the foreign affairs select committee, led by David Howell, was due to meet Milosevic. Their flight home clashed with the meeting, but Kennedy came to the rescue of the British embassy. Within minutes a mysterious technical fault had closed down the airport, and Milosevic was able to meet the committee. The man now praised by Karadzic for helping to open Sarajevo airport, had also helped to close down the one at Belgrade.



● Saatchi & Saatchi, who master-minded the Tories last four general election victories, will take on their biggest political account to date this summer. There has been intense speculation that the agency would be appointed to advise Ronald Reagan in the American presidential election. The reports were wide of the mark. Instead the company is being hired to revive the flagging fortunes of George Bush and Dan Quayle.

### Closed-door policy

CAMBRIDGE colleges guard their portals vigilantly, as any undergraduate who has had to climb in after hours will know. But in a new spirit of openness, the connecting door between St John's and Trinity will tonight be flung open for the first time in almost half a century.

The door, which was built during the second world war to facilitate the movement of fire fighters, has remained padlocked ever since. It will be opened as part of a joint celebration to mark the inauguration of the Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences. After a ceremony at John's, guests, including Professor Stephen Hawking and Ben Okri, will pass through the door for dinner at Trinity. They will then be entertained by the college choir singing

Ben Okri's *Ode to Newton*, set to music by Richard Marlow, director of music at Trinity. For the sake of college privacy, presumably, the door will afterwards be padlocked once more.

● There was much lingering outside the door of the suite occupied by José Carreras at the Bath hotel where he was staying at the weekend. "The cleaning staff were amazed to find that he sings in the shower just like everyone else."



says Salvo Saduto of the hotel, where employees and other guests were queuing up in the corridor to listen. Unlikely as it sounds, a booting recording of "Carreras live in the shower from the Spd Hotel" may well be authentic.

### Frosty welcome

NOT EVERYONE at the BBC is delighted by the decision to recruit David Frost for a new Sunday morning current affairs show. Staff working on the Sunday lunchtime BBC programme, *On the Record*, presented by Jonathan Dimbleby, fear they will be eclipsed by their new and glamorous colleague. Frost, who has interviewed the

### Low-key debut

BARONESS THATCHER, not noted for her conformity, yesterday bowed to convention and ensured that her maiden speech in the Upper House observed the time honoured tradition of being short and unprovocative. Rather than relying on the team which wrote her speech for *The Hague* in May, she enlisted Sir Charles Powell, her former foreign policy adviser at Downing Street. Powell said Baroness Thatcher on Sunday. The first draft was ready by Monday lunchtime and, characteristically, she promptly rewrote chunks to toughen up the message. But the speech was deemed wittier and more moderate than many of the blockbusters she has delivered since leaving office.

"It was a deliberate attempt to convey the same message in a more elegant and genteel form, to reflect the environment in which it was delivered," said one member of the Thatcher camp. Clearly she has been boning up on the red book, a companion to the standing orders of the Lords. It rules that the maiden speech should be short and unprovocative so as to discourage interruptions and to allow the following speaker — whatever his views — to congratulate the maiden speaker with sincerity, an honour which yesterday fell to Lord Callaghan.



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## POLICING PEACE

As relief flights begin to reach the residents of Sarajevo, the peacekeepers in Bosnia are seizing on the lull in the fighting to assert their role in this awful civil war. In doing so, they are raising the tempo of international co-operation — and raising ever more questions over its true purpose.

Lord Carrington is to resume his thankless mission today, flying directly to Sarajevo airport, singlehandedly reopened by President Milosevic. The leaders of the three warring communities have promised to meet Lord Carrington and the signs are that their talks may be productive. Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, is also on the move. He is sending 1,500 more troops to guard Sarajevo airport and is now talking of formal co-operation between the UN and the EC mission. His visit to Britain, he hopes, will garner support for his proposals to enhance UN peacekeeping and peacekeeping abilities, in Yugoslavia and in almost a dozen conflicts where the UN is engaged.

He will find a ready reception in Britain. It was John Major who convened the special security council summit in January to ask the new secretary-general for a comprehensive review of UN peacekeeping operations. His response is robust and in keeping with the UN's enhanced prestige and influence. Dr Boutros Ghali wants the UN to do more preventive diplomacy. The world should be prepared for trouble, he says, even if member states are reluctant to respond to tension on their doorstep — notably the entire southern Balkan region. He also wants power not only to monitor and keep peace but to enforce it. In a follow-up to such UN involvement, he wants "long" peacekeeping, not "only" repatriating refugees and monitoring elections, but also encouraging communal reconciliation.

Britain should have no difficulty supporting all this, and should persuade its security council partners, including the Russians and Chinese who may have the most doubts, to

do so too. Since the end of the Cold War, the UN has stepped into half a dozen regional conflicts without a proper diplomatic and military armory. Britain may have doubts about the wisdom of assigning troops for permanent standby UN duties, or paying for UN operations out of defence rather than foreign affairs budgets. But it surely makes sense for the security council to be able to deploy force quickly when needed, and have equipment positioned near any conflict.

Can these sensible proposals find immediate application in Yugoslavia? Dr Boutros Ghali has pointed out the inconsistency of the UN pursuing both peacekeeping and enforcement. Peacekeeping is based on the co-operation of all protagonists including the Serbs. Enforcement would mean stepping up international sanctions against Serbia and even authorising UN troops to shoot back at those who broke the ceasefire. He also admitted that the UN had not yet looked much beyond the immediate priorities of establishing a lasting ceasefire and bringing humanitarian aid to the beleaguered cities in Yugoslavia and the 1.2 million refugees now made homeless.

What he does recognise is that the UN cannot hold the ring indefinitely or become bogged down in costly long-term operations. Only a political settlement will achieve peace, requiring "patience, time and some imagination — and money". His proposals for peace-keeping stop short of the negotiations needed to sort out the poisonous mix of ethnic suspicion, geographic intermingling and economic disintegration. He recognises that such work is sometimes better done regionally. This means, in Yugoslavia's case, UN support for the EC peace process, underpinning the Carrington mission by the deployment of UN troops. Subsidiarity is not just EC jargon; it is also a valid principle for UN action. One day soon the peace of Europe may depend on it and the Sarajevo operation may be its proving ground.

## FEAR OF CRIME FIGURES

The Home Office said yesterday it was changing the basis on which it releases figures on crimes collected by the police. The change is a small one: figures are to be released half-yearly instead of quarterly. Once every two years they will also coincide with the Home Office's own British Crime Survey, so as to "set the figures in context". The change has been made, two years after the Grade committee on the fear of crime, to reduce the sensationalism attached to quarterly publication.

Kenneth Clarke can at least be congratulated for a reform that Kenneth Baker and his crime minister, John Patten, never quite had the courage to make. So far so good, but so far is hardly any distance at all. The two yearly British Crime Survey is a proper survey of the public's experience of crime, or lack of it. If politicians and the media want periodic but reasonably accurate material on criminal misbehaviour, the answer is to increase the frequency of such reputable surveys. Recorded crime figures are not reputable and do not provide the police with "a measure of the amount of crime with which they are faced", as the Home Office minister, Michael Jack, claimed yesterday.

Mr Clarke is now offering the public two bouts of "crime wave" hysteria a year instead of four. This hysteria will continue to be based on collating police station crime books from 43 separate forces and lumping the resulting total together in one table covering everything from glue-sniffing and auto-theft to murder. Despite some effort to standardise entries in the crime books of police stations, recording is bound to vary between forces. It is distorted by police numbers and activity, by insurance company requirements, by the public's access to telephones and local police stations, and by the complex internal politics of police forces in bidding for extra staff and more capital spending.

## IN TIME WITH HAWKING

The British are notorious for not being interested in ideas. From E. M. Forster's imaginary golfer briskly announcing that he has no use for a novel that does not tell a story, to the Christmas annuals that used to be called things like *Stirring Deeds for British Boys*, the world of action rather than the life of thought has traditionally held pride of place in the national psyche. How then to explain the remarkable success of Stephen Hawking's *A Brief History of Time*, which this week beats all records in its durability on the bestseller lists?

By no means all those who have bought the book have read it, at least to the end. The argument it presents is a difficult one (Bernard Levin cannot be the only person to have given up the struggle). That has been an essential part of its attraction. To own it, even to give it as a present, is to display a badge of courage — real or pretended. That may explain why its runaway success in the bookshops contrasts with its meagre showing in the league tables of books borrowed from public libraries.

Those who lay Hawking's slim volume out on their coffee tables want to know that they are curious about deeper questions which, though certainly bothering the Victorians, seldom seem to be discussed in contemporary society. Hawking's ambitions are in no way confined to the laws of physics. In perhaps the most famous passage of his book, he makes clear that his ultimate aim is to explain "why it is that we and the universe exist". If that sounds a tall order then the reward, he is anxious to urge, would be commensurately great: "If we find the answer to that, it would be the ultimate triumph of human reason — for then we would know the mind of God."

It is hardly the kind of formulation likely to

occur to a linguistic philosopher, nor is it surprising that it has attracted academic disdain. But then Hawking himself is unfashionable enough never to be diffident in talking about God. He does not preclude the possibility that God originally created the universe, while irreverently noting that its expansionary nature "does place limits on when he carried out his job".

Indeed if Hawking's book has a direct precedent in the bestseller business, it is probably Bishop John Robinson's *Honest to God* published to meet a similar popular intellectual appetite nearly 30 years ago. The sales of both books hardly support the argument that the British are not interested in the study of first or last things.

If Hawking has put any noses out of joint, they probably belong to the philosophical, rather than the theological, community. He dares to blow away modern metaphysics in a blast of scorn. Our present race of linguistic philosophers have, he claims, reduced the queen of sciences to mere analysis of language: "What a comedown from Aristotle to Kant."

There are elements of the showman in Hawking. He has taken with relish to his celebrity status. The fact that he is a courageous victim of motor-neurone disease will have done his worldwide fame no harm. If he has become a superstar — surely by now the best-known scientist since Albert Einstein — no one could begrudge him his achievement. But his countrymen are entitled to take pride in him too. If nothing else, he has demonstrated that there is a serious hunger for ideas in contemporary Britain. When it comes to selling books, even Jeffrey Archer and Frederick Forsyth now need a becoming modesty.

## Moonlight choice for GPs on call

From Dr Antony Warren

Sir, If the burden of night and weekend calls is increasing, then Dr Eric Rose of the BMA is right to say (report, June 24) that this is partly because it does not occur to many patients that the doctor they call out at night also works the whole of the day before and after. Greater use of deputising services will, however, aggravate the problem by further reducing patients' inhibitions about calling inappropriately.

Although some medical emergencies can be dealt with by any doctor, a high proportion are more carefully and efficiently handled by one with some knowledge of the patient. This also reduces the number of subsequent consultations in daylight hours.

One wonders where all the doctors are going to come from to replace those who do their own night and weekend calls at present, and suspects that many GPs will be forced to "moonlight" to maintain the income their practices will lose by opting out.

Rather than calling for an end to the 24-hour commitment, the BMA should be encouraging the Department of Health and GPs themselves to educate patients better about what constitutes an out-of-hours emergency. Transfer of 24-hour responsibility from individual doctors to practices or small groups of practices (which is in fact how perfectly satisfactory cover is provided in many areas) would also help.

If family health services authorities have a role, it could be in setting up night and weekend telephone advice and message-taking services (such as we already have in Cambridge, provided by the GPs) which could filter out inappropriate calls.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY WARREN,  
Lensfield Medical Practice,  
48 Lensfield Road, Cambridge.

From Dr Martin Lawrence

Sir, My general practice partnership is rural. Urban doctors may be able to solve their "on-call" problems by using deputies, but rural doctors cannot do so. We are more dispersed, have smaller practices and no deputising service available, even if we chose to use it. Any system to relieve on-call commitment will have to be organised centrally.

We do not have to invent such a system. The Dames have this year introduced a system for GP out-of-hours care which covers the whole country. There are no deputies; the service is staffed by the GPs themselves. By efficient organisation it costs no more, and the average GP works two nights a month and two weekends a year. In addition older, rich, tired GPs may sell sessions to young, poor, energetic ones. At the introduction of the NHS clinical medicine was relatively ineffective: a sick patient's main source of care came from the presence of a familiar doctor. Today we are proactive: we run health promotion to identify risk; we provide counselling; and we manage chronic disease such as heart failure, diabetes or asthma so as to prevent crises. This causes a great deal more work by day, but out-of-hours events requiring continuity of care are much reduced. Now we need an organisation for care which reflects the needs of 1998, not 1948.

Yours sincerely,  
MARTIN LAWRENCE  
(Lecturer in general practice,  
University of Oxford,  
Department of Public Health &  
Primary Care,  
Gibson Building,  
Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.

From Dr D. M. Davies

Sir, If my memory serves me correctly, television's Dr Finlay, to whom you referred in your leading article, "Doctor on call" (June 19), worked in rural Scotland, alongside his partner, Dr Cameron. Whatever the outcome of negotiations between the health secretary and GP leaders, one result is certain: those of us who work in similar small rural practices will be totally unaffected by them and will continue to offer a "Dr Finlay" service.

We have long realised that no matter how desirable it would be to relinquish 24-hour cover there is no workable alternative in sparsely populated areas. What accepting that it is only right and proper to continue to provide such a service to patients, it is unjust to expect our families to show the same commitment.

I hope that in the forthcoming negotiations some consideration will be given to devising a system, for example a central telephone-answering service, which would relieve our kin of this duty.

Yours faithfully,  
D. M. DAVIES,  
Bellwood, Little Birch, Hereford.

## The risk business

From Mr Ivor Lucas

Sir, "If senior civil servants are to enjoy salaries comparable with those of captains of industry they should be subject to comparable risks" (letter, June 25).

"Given that he earned £850,000 last year, in salary and bonuses, his [Mr Robert Horton's] departure is expected to cost BP more than £2 million" (report, June 27).

Some risk!  
Yours faithfully,  
I. T. M. LUCAS,  
65 Newstead Way, SW19.

## Capital arts projects, great and small

From Mr Stuart Lipton

Sir, Bryan Appleyard's article (July 1) on what he calls *grands projets* in the arts, such as those constructed by President Mitterrand, offers the opportunity of considering the alternative: *petits projets*.

London would benefit from further projects like the Sackler Gallery at the Royal Academy, which, though modest in cost compared with *grands projets*, make a real contribution to London and its public buildings.

*Petits projets* and renovations in other galleries, and the re-use of historic buildings like County Hall for the London School of Economics, would bring life and activity and regenerate London in a very cost-effective way.

Docklands is another area which has few benefits of the arts and of the traditional London village. In co-operation with English Heritage, listed buildings could be combined with striking new additions, bringing a whole variety of proposals, drawing interest and enthusiasm, which would enhance the area.

Perhaps government could fund these *petits projets* and allow us to celebrate London sooner rather than later.

Yours faithfully,  
STUART LIPTON,  
Lansdowne House,  
Berkley Square, W.1.  
July 2.

From the Chairman of the Royal Opera House

Sir, The Royal Opera House deserves better than Bryan Appleyard's totally unsupported allegation that it is "chaotic and directionless". Its job is to produce for its audiences opera and ballet (not mentioned by Mr Appleyard) to the highest standard. This, by common consent, it is doing.

Birmingham Royal Ballet has just completed another sell-out season in Birmingham, to which generous and hospitable city it has successfully transferred its base. The Royal Ballet, dancing better than it has for

years, has recently triumphed in Japan, and been immediately invited back. It is a fine ambassador for this country.

The Royal Opera is also off now to Japan, inaugurating a four-year cycle of visits to that country by the cycle of opera houses of the world. It leaves these shores after a season which has been its best for many years, with critical praise for many evenings of great music-making, and no less than seven successful new productions: *Simon Boccanegra*, *Mitridate*, *Re di Ponto*, *Don Giovanni*, *Death in Venice*, *Fiery Angel*, *I Puritani* and *Der Fliegende Holländer*. *Ul Viaggio a Reims*, with most of the company in Japan, is still to come.

The 21st season of Midland Bank Proms, just completed, further widened our audience and well over 12,000 people enjoyed the relays of *Samson et Dalila* in the Piazza at Covent Garden last month.

News of all this could be gleaned from your own arts pages. If this stewardship on the part of Jeremy Isaacs and his team has been chaotic or directionless, then I am the Flying Dutchman.

Yours faithfully,  
ANGUS STIRLING,  
Chairman,  
Royal Opera House,  
Covent Garden, WC2.  
July 2.

From Sir John Burgh, President of Trinity College, Oxford

Sir, Covent Garden is imperfect, like all institutions, and its policies at times questionable. But certainly it does not deserve Mr Appleyard's ignorant and prejudiced castigation and his wish that Mr Mellor should "knock some sense into the chaotic and directionless Royal Opera House".

He says he wishes to preserve it. Such criticism could destroy it.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN BURGH,  
Trinity College, Oxford.  
July 1.

"Nagasaki Trio" would perform Japanese nose flute music.

I am a regular attendee of concerts at the Barbican and Royal Festival Hall, selecting my concerts carefully to avoid any piece of a non-melodic nature, such as an orchestral interpretation of a hurricane on Hampstead Heath.

Most of us would like to hear more popular pieces on Radio 3 from the great composers of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and if Mr Nicholas Kenyon, the new controller of Radio 3, does not satisfy our demands in his new programming, then the new music station, Classic FM, will have most, if not all, of the audience.

Snippets of popular classical music are played each night for one hour on London's Melody Radio, and broadcasting this type of programming on either Radio 3 or Classic FM will win over the hearts and minds of the mass of popular classical music fans.

Yours faithfully,  
H. ACKERMAN,  
14 Rossanne House,  
Etchingham Park Road, N3.

From Mr A. P. Rushton

Sir, Radio 3's signal on VHF is pathetically weak. What is the point of the proposed new programming if listeners can't pick it up?

Compared to the commercial stations, Radio 3 — in London at least — is about as strong as a pirate station at the bottom of my garden, and difficult to pick up on a portable machine that is not connected to an outside aerial.

Yours etc.,  
A. P. RUSHTON,  
5 Rutford Road, SW16.  
June 30.

From the Leader of Sheffield City Council

Sir, Let us get two things straight. First, Sheffield has suffered grievously from the decimation of the steel and engineering industries; second, the city council has severe financial problems. These two facts are not significantly connected, except in Mr Crampton's article.

The council did not run down our industry; we fought hard to prevent it. We have been working consistently, and in increasing harmony, with the chambers of commerce and trade, Sheffield Development Corporation, the University of Sheffield, Sheffield City Polytechnic and a host of other local organisations to attract new investment to the city.

Mr Crampton, sneering at Sheffield's City Challenge bid, refers to "a delegation from Sheffield city council" asking John Redwood, the environment minister, for £37 million. In fact, the delegation was made up of the president of the city's 2,000-company chamber of commerce, the chief executive of the local health authority and myself as leader of the council.

Our bid was devised and developed by a wide range of local organisations — private and public, manufacturers and service providers, community groups and regional organisations — and unanimously supported by them all. It is the city of Sheffield, not just the city council, who are asking for City Challenge money.

Yours faithfully,  
MIKE BOWER,  
Leader,  
Sheffield City Council,  
Town Hall, Sheffield.  
June 25.

## 'Jobs for the girls' at the Garrick?

From Mr Michael Rubinstein

Sir, Janet Daley ("I want to join the network of the clubbable", June 30) has made out a perfect case for the continued exclusion of women from membership of the Garrick.

I do hope she will not blame herself for taking Sir Peregrine Worsthorne as seriously as he purports to take himself — her first error of judgment. Her second is to believe, apparently, that the Garrick is a bed of power, bawdy and corruption which women would enhance by their presence and should be privileged to share or, maybe, to reform.

The fear that we could be tempted to try to impress women members and might fail would indeed militate against the cause of their being permitted to join, since we do not meet at the club at present to impress each other. Perhaps if we were "the most influential men in the country" we could, as Janet Daley suggests, never see women as friends; though the logic of that proposition is unreliable and the premise, arch flattery, is false.

My impression is that members of the Garrick tend to have many friends, women and men, who are not members. As might be expected.

Yours sincerely,  
MICHAEL RUBINSTEIN,  
2 Raymond Buildings,  
Grays Inn, WC1.  
July 1.

From Mr Giles Playfair

Sir, I think I'm the oldest member of the Garrick. I can certainly assure Miss Daley that I am the least clubbable of men and that I would have appreciated women members when I first joined — especially if they were, as they should have been, successful actresses rather than, say, television presenters or journalists.

Over the years, since my election in 1933, I've watched the gradual encroachment of women. Today they march up and down the main staircase at luncheon or dinner, and are even permitted into the bar after, I believe, 9 o'clock.

Each year the Garrick has seemed to me a little less like what it was. I have predicted that the election of women to the Garrick is eventually inevitable and unstoppable. Nevertheless, I must hope that this will not be allowed to happen until my departure, for then the Garrick Club, as I have known it, will have finally ceased to exist.

Yours etc.,  
GILES PLAYFAIR,  
126 Cranbrook Road, W4.

From Mrs Anne Trenchard

Sir, I cannot understand why Janet Daley is so keen to join the men at the Garrick when she can join the men at the Reform. The latter has just celebrated the tenth anniversary of the admission of women and has recently elected its first woman chairman. Perhaps it is this which worries the men of the Garrick?

Yours clubbably,  
ANNE TRENCHARD,  
Reform Club,  
Pall Mall, SW1.

From Mr Patrick Heren

Sir, I will vote against admitting anyone, male or female, who thinks that being a member of the Garrick is about "networking".

Yours etc.,  
PATRICK HEREN,  
77 Rectory Grove, SW4.

From Sir Anthony Gray

Sir, Why cannot women hoist in that the whole purpose of a gentleman's club is to get away from women?

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY GRAY,  
Temple House, Upton Scudamore,  
Warminster, Wiltshire.

## Legendary Balkans

From Mr Steven K. Pavlovitch

Sir, The Times Diary (June 29) would have it that "according to legend the rivers of the Balkans will run blood-red at midnight" on June 28. Vidovdan, St Vitus's Day. There is no such legend, nor the other one mentioned in the Diary, that "on that day in 1948 Marshal Tito defied Josef Stalin and declared his own brand of non-aligned communism".

What happened on June 28, 1948, was that the Cominform adopted a resolution accusing the Yugoslav communists, under Tito, Kardelj, Djilas and Rankovic, of ideological deviations and expelling them from that organisation. Tito's brand of communism was the consequence, and then came non-alignment.

Yours faithfully,  
S. K. PAVLOVITCH,  
University of Southampton,  
Department of History,  
Highfield, Southampton,  
Hampshire.  
June 30.

## Labour-intensive

From Mr Alan Reed

Sir, Every day I travel to and from work by car. The round trip is approximately 20 miles.

Yesterday I had my windscreen washed at four different sets of traffic lights. Is this a record?

Yours sincerely,  
ALAN REED,  
Research Partners Ltd.,  
5 Acton Street, WC1.  
June 25.

Business letters, page 23

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.







THE TIMES FRIDAY JULY 3 1992

## OBITUARIES

## PROFESSOR ELIE KEDOURIE

Elie Kedourie, CBE, FBA, professor of politics in London University, 1965-90, died on June 26 aged 66. He was born in Iraq on January 25, 1926.

Elie Kedourie had a distinguished historical mind, was an early and leading contributor to the Conservative intellectual revival of the last 30 years, and produced an important critical oeuvre about the politics and religion of the modern world.

Kedourie was born of a wealthy, cosmopolitan and well-connected Jewish family in Baghdad, and acquired his first knowledge of politics by hearing Iraqi affairs being discussed in an informal manner at his father's dinner table. He was at school at College A-D Sasson and Shamash School, Baghdad, but decided that Iraq's future was bleak and went, in response to an advertisement in *The New Statesman*, to the London School of Economics, where he read politics at the very end of the Laski era while attending the lectures of Robbins and Hayek in the economics department.

Both at the LSE and at St Antony's College, Oxford, to which he went next, Kedourie had difficult experiences. At the LSE he was originally given a very inferior mark by error in the final examinations until put into the first class by the efforts of Professor K. B. Smedley. At St Antony's his thesis encountered opposition from one of his examiners, Sir Hamilton Gibb, an Arabophile Arabist who disliked his withering criticisms of British policy in Iraq in 1918. After withdrawing from the examination, Kedourie was then brought back to the LSE by Michael Oakeshott who had succeeded Laski as professor of political science in 1951. Kedourie remained a devoted friend during Oakeshott's tenure of his chair and, indeed, after Oakeshott's retirement began to feel — and not only because of that retirement — that the LSE had started to deteriorate.

At the LSE Kedourie gave carefully crafted lectures on the history of



political thought and on Hegel, Marx and the young Hegelians. He was an adequate administrator and spent three years as chairman of the politics department. But his greater success was as supervisor of research students. Having become a professor in 1965, he retired in 1990, spending a good deal of time both before and in retirement lecturing and writing on Middle Eastern subjects at Brandeis, at Columbia,

at the Washington Centre for Middle East Policy and at the Woodrow Wilson Centre in Washington, where he was when he died of the sort of heart attack which had nearly killed him twenty years earlier.

Kedourie's professional expertise was as an historian and analyst of Middle Eastern politics since 1914. In which his initial theme was the political desert which had been created in the Middle East, partly by

Zionist nationalism, but mainly by ignorance and incompetence on the part of the British official and governing classes in London, Cairo and Baghdad who had mistaken the accommodation of local sensibilities with wise government and, through their romantic illusions about Arabs, had themselves created a previously non-existent Arab nationalism which need not, he believed, have been created at all.

Kedourie's pessimism about British relations with Middle Eastern and Arab nationalism increased in the 1960s and 1970s as the United States repeated some of the mistakes of the British. Kedourie was pro-American by sympathy but was critical of some aspects of American policy. He doubted whether Islam was compatible with industrialisation and, in face of the Ayatollahs in Iran and the manifest hostility of popular sentiment in other states, began to believe that Israel was the West's only reliable ally.

While writing at length about Middle Eastern politics in *The Chatham House Version* and *In The Anglo-Arab Labyrinth*, Kedourie developed an indictment of modern nationalism (in Europe, Africa and Asia as well as in the Middle East). He ridiculed its rhetoric, exposed its destructiveness and emphasised in *Nationalism, Nationalism in Asia and Africa and Afghani and Arab* its Kantian character as a substitute religion.

Kedourie's attitude to the Middle East arose from a Jewish, or minority, mistrust of xenophobic nationalism and a conservative mistrust of ideological politics which he found much reason to express in England.

By instinct and practice Kedourie was a conservative person, but morally and politically, and would have been so whether he had belonged to a political party or not. But he was also both an intellectual conservative whose conservatism was implicit in all his historical writing about modern politics from England and the Middle East in 1952 onwards; and a party Conser-

vative who, though he had little sense of the compromises and accommodations of parliamentary politics and felt a deep mistrust for many aspects of the Conservative party's mentality, was a warm admirer of Mrs Thatcher to whom he talked from time to time about international politics on the ground that she somehow transcended these limitations. His admiration stopped short, however, at the educational and university policies of her government, of which he felt the greatest dislike and about which he wrote two pamphlets — *Diamonds Into Glass*, which was an attack on the university grants committee, and *Perestroika in the Universities*, which was so explicit about the threat her government was presenting to the universities that the Centre for Policy Studies, which had commissioned it, declined to publish it.

Kedourie was learned in the way in which modern historians often are not, felt strongly about the role of universities as centres of learning and had deep convictions which he made no attempt to hide. If he supposed that his learning was separate from his convictions and his scholarly writing from his polemic, he may be forgiven the illusion, since the effect of both was the same — to subject the absurdities and gullibilities of the higher Liberalism to the calm, assured but highly intelligent dissection of a relentless critic. At the time of his death he was writing books about Hegel and about the history of British Conservatism which it can be assumed would have strengthened these impressions.

Kedourie founded the journal *Middle Eastern Studies* in 1964 and edited it, along with his wife, until his death. Together with Maurice Cowling and Sir Geoffrey Elton he was a founder editor of *Cambridge Studies in the History and Theory of Politics*. He became an FBA in 1975 and a CBE in 1991. He is survived by his wife, Sylvia Hiam, two sons and one daughter.

## APPRECIATIONS

## Sir John Barnes



YOUR pleasing and comprehensive review of the life and career of the late Sir John Barnes (obituary, June 24) took me back almost half a century to the Royal Artillery branch of 21st Army Group headquarters operating from requisitioned houses in Edith Road, Hammersmith, when our small team was electrified by the arrival of a remarkable young major whom I was destined to serve as an NCO clerk in London, Normandy and Brussels until the late spring of 1945 when our unit was disbanded.

In those days John Barnes was certainly a martinet who demanded instant and hyper-efficient response to all his requirements.

Confronted by this scintillating, impetuous, impatient, witty, richly talented and quite extraordinary personality, I found it difficult, as a humbly-educated lowly subordinate, to come to terms with his towering intellect and glittering academic and social background. But although there were occasions when, within the straitjacket of military discipline, relationships became tense, I soon discovered that the brusque exterior and those piercing, bespectacled eyes concealed a compassionate

and warm heart deeply and consistently concerned for the wellbeing of his subordinates. Soon after our demobilisation he wrote to me apologising for the "lash" of his "ungrateful tongue" and although our paths then lay apart for many years we remained in touch by correspondence, which, on his part, was lively, witty and exhilarating to the end.

In the more recent years of mutual retirement, when I was to experience his delightful and generous hospitality both in London and at his beautiful Sussex home with gracious Cynthia at his side, our friendship of half a century seemed to have come delectably full circle.

C. James Martin

## Sir Richard Francis

YOUR obituary of Sir Richard Francis (June 27) with its full description of his colourful career with the BBC, fails to do justice to his considerable achievements as director general of the British Council. The BBC certainly provided Dick with a valuable range of contacts in political and public life and an abiding fascination with international events. He put this experience, together with his extraordinary grasp of detail and his tenacity in defence of what he felt to be valuable, unreservedly at the Council's disposal.

In the Council his leadership was notable for the introduction of a rigorous planning routine with a target of demonstrating that the Council's objective effectively and closely supported those of the Foreign Office. He was convinced that the best way to protect the Council's independent but complementary role and its traditional values was to prove its worth by business criteria. This meant fundamental changes of culture and attitude within the organisation. "Value for money" and "efficiency savings" became Council watch words. The latter comfortably outpaced Whitehall norms.

Dick was in his element in his visits to directorates and staff overseas who were stimulated, if often exhausted, by his enthusiasm. His reports to the board were laced with anecdote, local colour and stories of his numerous con-

tacts in high places, all of which imparted the thrill he got from the Council's operations in the field.

As well as a strong commitment to the promotion of the English language he wanted to see the best of British art in all its forms exhibited abroad.

He was active in promoting the "Britain in Europe" campaign in 1989 when the Council joined forces with business to promote the U.K. through the arts in the European single market. The programme of events assembled to demonstrate Britain's cultural identity amongst our European partners was, he said, "the most powerful armada of British culture ever assembled for a single purpose". He was quick, as your obituary acknowledged, to recognise the opportunities for Britain in Eastern Europe which the Council was so well placed to exploit on this country's behalf.

The successful extension of the Council's network in the former communist countries is perhaps the best testimony to Dick's energy and far-sightedness.

Dick received devoted support from his wife Penny. Together they made many friends for the Council, at home and for Britain abroad.

Sir David Orr  
former Chairman of  
The British Council

OUR obituary of Sir Richard Francis said that he resigned from the BBC after failing to succeed Alastair Milne as director general. In fact he resigned in 1986, some time before Mr Milne's departure in 1987.

## PETER WADLAND

Peter Wadland, senior producer for Decca Records, died on June 30 aged 46. He was born in Devon on May 28, 1946.



PETER Wadland was one of the most musical, adventurous and pioneering of record producers. During his twenty odd years in the industry his role took on an ever increasing importance. He was responsible for beginning the Florilegium series of period-instrument performances for Decca's subsidiary, L'Oiseau Lyre, which was intended to compete with Deutsche Grammophon's Archiv label. He engaged the Academy of Ancient Music, the creation of the conductor Christopher Hogwood, and his recordings were an astonishing success in both artistic and commercial terms, owing much to Wadland's skills. The AAM's most significant work was a complete set of Mozart symphonies and there was much admiration for its version of Haydn's *The Creation*.

Hogwood and his orchestra, under Wadland's nu-

lage, added to their achievements the complete Beethoven symphonies and were on the way to making a complete set of the Haydn symphonies. Even more important have been the recordings produced by Wadland of Mozart's operas made over the past ten years by the Drottningholm Court Theatre Orchestra conducted by Arnold Östman. These established new standards in immediacy and truthfulness in recording opera that will be

hard to surpass and owe a great deal to Wadland's genius in creating a natural ambience far from the over-reverberant sound so much in favour today. At the time of his death Wadland was looking forward to recording *Die Zauberflöte* with the same forces.

Wadland was a connoisseur of voices which enabled him to cast his operas with discernment. He was also tactful and encouraging with famous artists, and handled Joan Sutherland well when she recorded Handel's *Athalia* with Hogwood a few years back. It was her first foray into period-instrument performance and Wadland loved to retell Sutherland's comment on hearing the play-backs: "Come to think of it, I'm a bit of an old instrument myself." He also delighted in listening to the great singers of the past: old records of Tetrazzini were often to be heard at his home.

As a lover of a quite different kind of music, the work of the piano virtuoso, he was responsible for many of the recordings of those unpre-

dictable geniuses, Shura Cherkassky and Jorge Bolet. Yet another landmark was the complete recording he made of the Shostakovich Quartets with the Fitzwilliam Quartet, which have just reappeared on CD.

Wadland was taken to Belgium by his parents at the age of two, but eventually returned to Britain to study at King's College, Taunton. There he greedily listened to the whole contents of the school record library, storing up knowledge for his future career. He first worked in the sales department of the music publisher Schott while teaching the recorder. He then became advertising manager of Hansons Books, which produced magazines on the arts in the 1960s. In answer to an advertisement, he applied to be, and was appointed, assistant label manager at Decca in 1968, and produced his first record in 1971.

As a producer, which is still selling well. He had found his métier.

Wadland was an enthusiastic cook and took pleasure in entertaining his friends.

and Alexander Knox, it looked highly promising on paper but on screen it was all a bit overblown and did little to the box-office.

Georghiu, as colourful as he was prolific, wrote many more competently sensational novels, including *La Seconde Chance* (1949) and *Les Immortelles d'Agapia* (1964). These and others did reasonably well in Europe and were widely translated, but made small impact in England and America. Later work included *God in Paris* and *Christ in Lebanon*.

In 1971 Georghiu became Patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church in Paris and was a consistently fierce critic of the Ceausescu regime in his native country. Amongst his own books he himself most valued the novel which won him international fame and his memoirs, published in 1986, *Le Témoin de la vingt-cinquième heure*.

Starring Anthony Quinn, Vima Lisi, Michael Redgrave

## VIRGIL GHEORGHIU

Virgil Gheorghiu, Romanian novelist and priest, died in Paris on June 22 aged 75. He was born in Rasboieni, now in Moldavia, on September 15, 1916.



THE son of an Orthodox priest, Virgil Gheorghiu began his career as a diplomat in the service of the highly unstable government of inter-war Romania. In 1944, when the communists started their take-over bid of his native country (which they finally completed in 1947) he emigrated to France. Like his compatriot, the ex-Nazi and anti-Semite, Vitalia Horia, he took to writing novels in French soon after his arrival in Paris, although the only book for which he is at all well known in English-speaking countries, *The Twenty-Fifth Hour*, was originally published in Romanian as *Ora 25* (1947). *Ora 25* was soon translated into French as *La*

*Vingt-Cinquième Heure* (1949) as well as into English. It remained the most famous of the story or so novels he wrote. But from the time of its publication he became a newsworthy figure in France, not least because in 1963 he was ordained a priest of the Romanian Orthodox Church. His highest ambi-

tion was to be, as he put it, "the poet of Christ to the Romanian people".

*The Twenty-Fifth Hour*, in common with several of his better known novels, put great emphasis on the decreasing role of the individual in a technological age. Georghiu's point was that modern life does no more than pre-empt categories by which individuals are then judged. The book was neat and a good adventure story which made a valid ethical point. But it was never in the class of the fiction of such Romanians as Cezar Petrescu, Marin Preda or even Mircea Eliade.

In 1967 the capable Henri Verneuil made it into a blockbuster movie under its English title of *The Twenty-Fifth Hour* — a Franco-Italian-Yugoslav production in which Carlo Ponti was the prime mover. One of the scriptwriters was Wolf Mankowitz. Starring Anthony Quinn, Vima Lisi, Michael Redgrave

and Alexander Knox, it looked highly promising on paper but on screen it was all a bit overblown and did little to the box-office.

Georghiu, as colourful as he was prolific, wrote many more competently sensational novels, including *La Seconde Chance* (1949) and *Les Immortelles d'Agapia* (1964). These and others did reasonably well in Europe and were widely translated, but made small impact in England and America. Later work included *God in Paris* and *Christ in Lebanon*.

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Starring Anthony Quinn, Vima Lisi, Michael Redgrave

## IAIN WALKER

Iain Walker, executive editor of *The Mail on Sunday*, died while climbing in the north-west Highlands on June 30 aged 48. He was born in Dundee on July 7, 1943.

IAIN Walker had a particular aptitude for campaigning journalism. His fight on behalf of parents in Rochdale, Lancs, was perhaps the best example of this strength. He and a diligent team of reporters tackled head-on social workers who had taken children into care after claiming that "satanic abuse" had been practised on them by their parents. The culmination of the investigations was a ministerial enquiry and the rubbishing of the satanic abuse theory. Walker was named campaigning journalist of the year in the British Press Awards for 1990 for the Rochdale stories.

He was proud to be part of the band of journalists who worked their way up from Scottish provincial newspapers to the highest reaches of Fleet Street. However, in spite of the executive status he achieved in later years he never considered himself to be anything other than a reporter, albeit, as he said himself, "the best paid in Fleet Street".

He had a positive hunger for news — an almost child-like fascination for interesting facts and for pieces of seemingly useless information. But it was in his assembling and dissemination of such facts that Walker excelled. He worked for popular newspapers throughout his career and revelled in his ability to tell complicated stories, not normally associated with the tabloid press, just as well as the "heavies".

He came into his own as a journalist when he joined *The Mail on Sunday*. He was news editor when the paper was launched ten years ago and had no further to look for his "splash" for the opening issue than the RAF's bombing of the runway at Port Stanley. "I think I may have something to fill your first front page," said a friend and contact at the Ministry of Defence on the eve of publication. And so Walker had a two-hour break on the story.



later worked for the *Daily Mail*, the *Daily Record* and the *Sun*. Among his major foreign assignments were covering the Black September fighting in Amman, the Bangladesh War, the Yom Kippur War and the civil war in Rhodesia.

A proud Scot, he was happiest when walking in the Scottish hills and he would have thought it fitting that it was in these hills that he met his death. In spite of his background he became an Anglican, very much on the Anglo-Catholic wing — a follower of the former Bishop of London, Graham Leonard, and a fierce opponent of the ordination of women priests. He was a regular church attendee at home in Purley, Surrey, and often visited churches near his office.

He is survived by his wife Clare, also a journalist, and a son and daughter.

## July 3 ON THIS DAY 1957

Christine Truman was at 16 the youngest girl to reach the semi-finals at Wimbledon this century. She lost to Althea Gibson (referred to as Miss Gibson of Harlem throughout), who went on to play her first colour and sunny picture with fashion and colour. The centre of this day's picture included live American players and with them three of the seedlings — the Misses Truman, Reynolds and Reyes, of Great Britain, South Africa, and Mexico, to offer youthful challenge. It was a situation that offered much. Two questions overrode all others would Miss Truman, Wimbledon champion of 1948, 1949, 1950 and 1955, take a step forward towards another title, would precious youth have the last word with its elders?

## MISS TRUMAN AGAINST AMERICA

From our Lawn Tennis Correspondent

It was ladies' day at Wimbledon yesterday in every sense. Here were the last eight of the women to contest their singles; here was the feminine element filling the surrounding and sunny picture with fashion and colour. The centre of this day's picture included live American players and with them three of the seedlings — the Misses Truman, Reynolds and Reyes, of Great Britain, South Africa, and Mexico, to offer youthful challenge. It was a situation that offered much. Two questions overrode all others would Miss Truman, Wimbledon champion of 1948, 1949, 1950 and 1955, take a step forward towards another title, would precious youth have the last word with its elders?

In the event the answers were no and yes. No to Miss Truman, who was fairly and squarely beaten by her American sister, Miss Hard, to the extent of 6-2, 6-2; and yes to Miss Truman, who lifted the roof off the centre court when she beat Mrs. Pratt, also of America, by 9-7, 5-7, 6-4 in a tinging match that stretched across almost two hours of suspense and heartbreak. So now, almost like some fairy story, Miss Truman, at the tender age of 16 in her first Wimbledon, has won a place in tomorrow's semi-finals, where she will play the favourite, Miss Gibson of Harlem.

With the hour hand just

coming up to 5 o'clock arrived the most pointed moment so far of this year's Wimbledon. Miss Truman swept her forehead drive to the sidelines. Mrs. Pratt groped in vain; a breathless last rally was over, the tension broken, and a splendid British victory was being cheered to the echo. Indeed, at this precise moment Miss Gibson was about to serve for her own victory of 6-3, 6-4 over Miss Reynolds on court one just next door. But the wave of noise broke over the stands. The swelling roar was taken up far and wide, and Miss Gibson, rather perplexed, was forced to stand and wait while the crowds and the hubbub subsided. It was a moment to remember.

It was a fine match, full of contrast, excitement, challenge and recovery, and at the end of it all there were two points to make, each pleasant. First, the pacific gallery of the centre court kept its impartiality splendidly until all pent-up feelings broke through finally; secondly, Mrs. Pratt was the most generous of opponents.

The two were poles apart in their methods. Miss Truman again lived on her forehead drive, which every now and then fairly swept the court from end to end. To this she added some acute lobbing as occasion demanded. Mrs. Pratt, on the other hand, offered far the wider variety. Here was the drop shot, often beautifully timed and measured, followed by the deep lob if required, and the low slice to the backhand. But most of all she seized herself in the forecourt, searching for every volley.

Some would have been broken and indeed there came two crises in the match when it seemed that Miss Truman would succumb on the very threshold of victory. Outwardly she looked calm and collected, for all the world like some tall schoolgirl out for a little afternoon's exercise. But deep down the strain must have told as the tide that seemed to be flowing smoothly her way suddenly ebbed. Yet in the nick of time she recovered to hold on to a triumph she richly deserved.

## Birthdays today

Miss Evelyn Anthony, author, 64; Sir Bernard Burrows, diplomat, 62; Sir William Deakin, former warden, St Antony's College, Oxford, 79; Air Marshal Sir Aubrey Ellwood, 95; Sir Eric Franklin, Indian civil servant, 82; Mr David Gandolfo, racehorse trainer, 54; the Hon Sir Eustace Gibbs, former vice-marshal, Diplomatic Corps, 63; Sir Richard Hadley, cricketer, 63; Sir Edward Jones, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 80; Mr Anthony Lester, QC, chairman, Runnymede Trust, 56; the Countess of Loudoun, 73; Mr Iain Macdonald-Smith, yachtsman, 47; Vice-Admiral Sir Hugh Mackenzie, 79; the Very Rev Dr William McMillan, former Moderator of

the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, 65; Lord Mulley, 74; Mr Stavros Niarchos, shipping magnate, 83; Professor Michael Oliver, cardiologist, 67; the Earl of Orkney, 73; Professor Gwendolen Rees, zoologist, 86; Baroness Ryder of Walsaw, 69; Mr Francis Steegmuller, writer, 86; Judge Heather Steel, 52; Mr Tom Stoppard, playwright, 53; Sir John Swan, Premier of Bermuda, 57; Mr Justice Waite, 60; Sir John Wills, Lord Lieutenant of Avon, 60.

**Appointment**  
Sir Peter Walker-Oakover to be a Deputy Lieutenant for Staffordshire.

## Dinners

**Prime Minister**  
The Prime Minister was host at a dinner held last night at 10 Downing Street in honour of Dr Boutros Boutros Ghali, Secretary-General of the United Nations. The other guests were: Mr Maurice Goussard, Mr Payne Aubrey, Mr Neil Gibson, the Hon Douglas Hogg, QC, Mr Sir David Hanley, Sir Robert Hargrave and Mr Stephen Watt.

**Company of Chartered Accountants**  
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayores, accompanied by the Sheriff and their ladies, attended the annual ladies dinner of the Company of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales held last night at Merchant Taylors' Hall. Mr R.G. Wilkes, Master, pre-

## Service dinners

**Corps of Royal Engineers**  
General Sir George Cooper, Chief Royal Engineer, presided at a Corps guest night dinner held last night at headquarters mess, Chatham. Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, Commander-in-Chief, RAF Strike Command, and Sir Neil Westbrook were among the guests.

## Receptions

**Saudi-British Society**  
Lord Denham, Chairman of the Saudi-British Society, was host at a reception held yesterday in the Durbar Court, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to welcome Dr Ghazi A. Alqasbi on his appointment as ambassador of Saudi Arabia.

**Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union**  
Sir Michael Marshall, MP, President of the Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and Lady Marshall were hosts at a reception held last night at the House of Commons for Members of the Diplomatic Corps and both Houses of Parliament.





Earlier the first of the 850 Canadian troops from a special battalion under UN command arrived from their barracks in Croatia after a perilous 57-hour journey, which included clearing minefields and getting caught in a fierce battle in central Bosnia between advancing Croats and retreating Serb units.

But the focus of attention yesterday was the airport and

had descended, sending the snipers to ground for half an hour. The sniping resumed when the sun shone, but died minutes later as the Norwegian plane made its final approach to what is undoubtedly the world's most dangerous airfield.

UN forces, primarily French and Canadian units looked a little relieved as the plane landed. So did the local commander of the UN forces.

UN forces, primarily French and Canadian units looked a little relieved as the plane landed. So did the local commander of the UN forces.

**Replacement troops, page 12**  
**Leading article, page 15**

**Trembling with rage, page 2**  
**Routiers revival, page 11**  
**Grand prix threat, page 37**

were spending too much time talking together and not enough time talking to electors, with the result that a wide gap had been created

**Full debates, pages 8, 9**  
**Whitehall's lion, page 14**  
**Lord Alexander, page 14**

**MATTHEW PARRIS**

[illegible]

**DOWN**

- 2 In a shop, I never express a view (5).
- 3 Plough beginning to break—gripped the wrong way (3,6).
- 4 Bar causing loud commotion (6).
- 5 Avoid seeing how they took real snaps (4,3,5,3).
- 6 Fly doctors to capital (8).
- 7 Prize from a lottery rejected (5).
- 8 Catch line—disentangle it, using a particular skill (9).
- 14 Together suddenly (3,2,4).
- 16 In control of a race taking two men over 50 miles (2,3,4).
- 17 Popular attitude, for example (8).
- 20 Stout gun and car (3,3).
- 22 Bird dog's not black (5).
- 24 For beginners, it's not normally easy riding into the ring (5).

**Concise Crossword, page 9**  
**Life & Times section**

**SAVE ON COST,  
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New Elect 17 covers you for those  
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Today's pollen  
count forecast is  
**LOW**  
**SELDANE.**  
A major advance in hayfever  
treatment.

| TOURIST RATES   |        |        |        |
|-----------------|--------|--------|--------|
|                 | Bank   | Bantam | Bantam |
| Australia S     | 2.64   | 2.64   | 2.64   |
| Austria S       | 1.91   | 1.91   | 1.91   |
| Belgium Fr      | 62.26  | 58.25  | 58.25  |
| Canada S        | 4.405  | 2.942  | 2.942  |
| Denmark Kr      | 13.18  | 10.62  | 10.62  |
| Finland Mk      | 8.42   | 7.51   | 7.51   |
| France Fr       | 10.21  | 9.80   | 9.80   |
| Germany D       | 1.18   | 1.18   | 1.18   |
| Greece Dr       | 35.38  | 34.33  | 34.33  |
| Hong Kong S     | 1.37   | 1.37   | 1.37   |
| India Ru        | 2300   | 2145   | 2145   |
| Japan Y         | 250.50 | 250.50 | 250.50 |
| Netherlands Gld | 3.425  | 3.425  | 3.425  |
| Norway Kr       | 1.09   | 1.14   | 1.14   |
| Portugal Esc    | 254.50 | 254.50 | 254.50 |
| South Africa Rd | 6.95   | 5.14   | 5.14   |
| Spain Ps        | 170    | 170    | 170    |
| Sweden Kr       | 11.17  | 11.17  | 11.17  |
| Switzerland Fr  | 2.92   | 2.77   | 2.77   |

|                |        |        |
|----------------|--------|--------|
| Turkey Lira    | 137/00 | 127/00 |
| USA \$         | 2.004  | 1 874  |
| Yugoslavia Dnr | DNB.   | DNB.   |

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC Different rates apply to travellers' cheques

|                             |
|-----------------------------|
| <b>HIGHEST &amp; LOWEST</b> |
|-----------------------------|

Wednesday: Highest day temp Falmouth, Cornwall, 23C (73F); lowest day max: Aviemore, Highland, 11C (52F); highest rainfall Salcombe, Devon, 1.00in; highest sunshine Salsburgh, North Humberies, 8.8hr

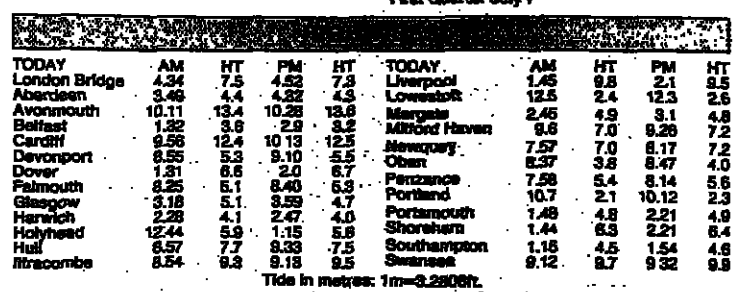
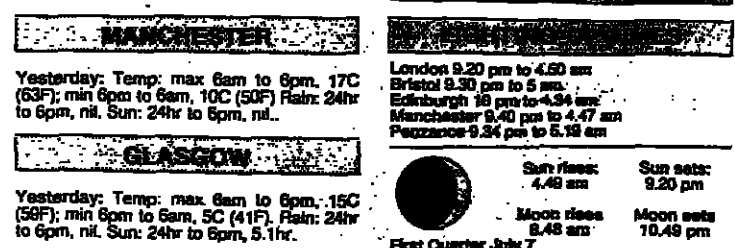
|             | Sun<br>hrs | Rain<br>in | C  | M   | F      |
|-------------|------------|------------|----|-----|--------|
| Aberdeen    | 2.5        | 0.24       | 13 | 55  | bright |
| Amsterdam   | 1.5        | 0.20       | 17 | 63  | rain   |
| Averymore   | -          | 0.16       | 11 | 52  | bright |
| Belfast     | -          | 0.01       | 14 | 57  | bright |
| Birmingham  | 1.5        | 0.20       | 17 | 63  | rain   |
| Bombay      | 1.0        | 0.14       | 20 | 68  | rain   |
| Bournemouth | 0.1        | 0.41       | 19 | 66  | showr  |
| Bombay      | 1.0        | 0.14       | 20 | 68  | rain   |
| Cardiff     | 0.1        | 0.04       | 19 | 66  | rain   |
| Calcutta    | 0.5        | 0.28       | 17 | 70  | bright |
| Colony Bay  | 0.5        | 0.20       | 17 | 63  | rain   |
| Douglas     | -          | 0.11       | 15 | 59  | showr  |
| Edinburgh   | 2.5        | 0.21       | 17 | 63  | rain   |
| Edinburgh   | -          | 0.01       | 14 | 57  | bright |
| Edsallamar  | 0.1        | 0.07       | 12 | 54  | showr  |
| Exeter      | 0.5        | 0.20       | 17 | 63  | rain   |
| Falmouth    | 5.3        | 0.04       | 23 | 73  | brlght |
| Falklands   | 1.0        | 0.10       | 20 | 68  | showr  |
| Guernsey    | 1.5        | 0.20       | 17 | 63  | rain   |
| Guernsey    | 1.5        | 0.58       | 21 | 70  | showr  |
| Hull        | 2.2        | 0.21       | 17 | 63  | rain   |
| Hunstanton  | 1.0        | 0.13       | 21 | 70  | showr  |
| Jersey      | 1.0        | 0.10       | 20 | 68  | showr  |
| Nottingham  | 1.2        | 0.21       | 17 | 63  | rain   |
| Nottingham  | 1.0        | 0.76       | 15 | 59  | showr  |
| Paris       | 1.5        | 0.20       | 17 | 63  | rain   |
| Parisienne  | 7.3        | 0.22       | 72 | brt | brt    |
| Torquay     | 0.5        | 0.21       | 17 | 63  | rain   |
| Wadsworth's | 1.5        | 0.21       | 17 | 63  | rain   |

Wadsworth's figures are usually available

## LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 16m to 18m; 18C (64F); min 6m to 8m; 13C (55F). Humidity: 60 to 70 per cent. Wind: 10 to 15 mph. Rain: 0.1, 2.4 to 5.6 mm. Bar: mean sea level, 6mm. 0.14 to 0.69 in. Hg. Cloudy: mostly cloudy, mostly cloudy.

|                                                                                                                       |     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
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**KEEP PACE WITH THE WEATHER** **RAPIDE**  
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# BUSINESS TIMES

SPORT  
30-34

FRIDAY JULY 3 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

## Fed cuts interest rate on fears of triple-dip recession

BY COLIN NARBROUGH  
AND MARTIN FLETCHER

FEAR that the American recovery is faltering prompted the Federal Reserve Board to cut its key discount rate by half a point to 3 per cent, its lowest since July 1963.

The Fed move, swiftly followed by matching cuts in the big commercial banks' benchmark prime rates, was announced only an hour after the release of unexpectedly weak jobs figures. The unemployment rate jumped from 7.5 per cent in May to 7.8 per cent in June, the highest rate for eight years. The closely watched payroll figures, which exclude jobs in agriculture, fell 117,000, with all sectors

except the government shedding labour. In May, non-farm payrolls rose 93,000.

Nicholas Brady, the treasury secretary, criticised the Fed for failing to act sooner. "The momentum of the recovery and the sluggish growth of the money supply indicated the need for such action some time ago," he said. Fearful for President Bush's chances of re-election this autumn, the administration has been pressing for lower rates to head off any recurrence of last autumn's dip in recovery.

The administration wants boosting world growth to be top priority at next week's Group of Seven summit in Munich. At a pre-summit meeting in Washington yesterday, Kiichi Miyazawa, the Japanese

prime minister, promised to use "every possible means" to expand his country's growth, including extra fiscal measures, if necessary. But neither Japan, nor Germany, is likely to cut interest rates in response to the Fed move. The Bundesbank left key rates unchanged yesterday.

The Fed's policy-setting committee, last week thought to have been split over the need for a cut, yesterday voted 7 to nil in favour of easing. It last cut the discount rate on December 20, when a full point was taken off. In April, the Fed cut the federal funds rate, interest banks charge each other, to 3.75 per cent. Yesterday, it signalled a further half point cut in this rate to 3.25 per cent. The Fed gave its

grounds for the cuts as "sustained weakness in credit and money growth, continuing movement toward price stability and uneven progress of the economic recovery".

An embattled President Bush insisted the economy would still be showing growth in the second quarter, but economists on Wall Street were less optimistic about America's prospects, many seeing the steep drop in non-farm payrolls as a disturbing pointer to the economy slipping back again. After last autumn's talk of a double-dip recession, the concern now is that America is headed for a triple dip.

Market reaction was mixed. Bonds soared, stocks lifted slightly, and the dollar shed two pennings to just below DM1.50.

hitting its year's low before regaining ground late in the European trading day.

□ American industrial orders showed an 0.8 per cent fall in May, the first decline for five months. Orders rose by a upward revised 1.3 per cent in April, the fourth consecutive monthly gain.

□ Bank of England figures on notes in circulation prompted concern on Britain's recovery. The weekly figures showed annual growth of 0.5 per cent in the latest week, indicating M0, the narrow money supply measure, is contracting again. Treasury figures showed Britain's official reserves fell an underlying \$14 million in June.

Comment, page 23

### TODAY IN BUSINESS

#### THATCHER ROAD

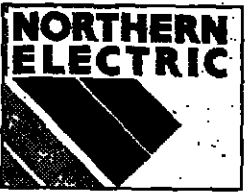


The conservatives in Sweden have overturned decades of central state planning in just a few months and headed down the Thatcher road to a market economy. Page 23

#### SUBSIDENCE

Further dismal results from the housing industry, this time from Crompton Nicholson, were not as bad as the City had feared. Tempus, page 22

#### SWITCHED ON



Northern Electricity has notched up a healthy rise in dividends, profits and the amount of power supplied to customers. Tempus, page 22

#### SOFT OPTION

Europeans spend £5 billion a year on software, but choosing which type to buy can be difficult. Infotech, pages 27-31

#### TOMORROW

##### PROFILE



Derek Hunt will make £2.8 million from the MFI flotation. But he tells Carol Leonard that wealth is something he would never discuss with friends.

## Radical reform to follow Lloyd's reports

BY JON ASHWORTH

LLOYD'S of London is set for the most radical reform in its 300-year history after the publication of two damning reports that cite a badly-regulated market in which outdated management practices prevail.

Sir Jeremy Morse's report on governance of Lloyd's allows six months for the current structure to be changed. From January 1 next year, the Lloyd's council will give way to two new bodies that will take over responsibility for running and regulating the insurance market. The hunt is on for a new figurehead, the chief executive officer, who will run Lloyd's alongside the chairman and a head of regulation.

Sir David Walker's report on Lloyd's paints a picture of a cavalier market in which, among other things, the individuals whose assets back underwriting at Lloyd's were introduced to high-risk syndicates without any attempt to check the suitability of such action. Sir David found no systematic fraud involving the London Market Excess (LMX) syndicates but attacked widespread incompetence among market professionals.

The changes will come too late to help the 5,000 names who face crippling losses as a result of their exposure to the LMX spiral, in which policies were reinsured around the

market. Disasters, including Hurricane Hugo and Piper Alpha, caused losses in the 1989 underwriting year of £2.06 billion.

The Walker report found no instances of fraud or conspiracy in the market. But it concludes: "Standards of professionalism, care and diligence on the part of a number of members and managing agents and active underwriters [fell] materially below best practice". It accuses some members' agents of failing in their fiduciary responsibilities and points to instances where market professionals were given preferential treatment at the expense of outsiders.

The report calls on Lloyd's to be more proactive in dealing with lapses among its professionals and be prepared to use "vigorous enforcement" and "disciplinary action" in respect of regulatory breaches.

Names will have to submit to an annual "financial health check" to assess their spread of risk. These and other proposals mirror those of the Financial Services Act, under which independent financial advisers have a duty to act in the best interests of their clients. Members' agents who advise names on their choice of syndicates will find themselves under similar pressure to give best advice. Sir David is a former chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, the main

regulatory body under the Act, and is keen to apply the lessons already learned.

Sir Jeremy proposes that Lloyd's be run under a triangular structure, loosely dominated by a smaller, less influential council. Control of the market will pass to two new bodies: a Market Board to oversee business conduct and a Regulatory Board to deal with disciplinary matters. The chairman of Lloyd's will sit at the head of the Regulatory Board, but two new posts will reduce his influence. He will work closely with the chief executive officer. An independent chairman of the Regulatory Board will be under pressure to put the Walker report's recommendations into play. Lloyd's hopes to find a suitable candidate for the post of chief executive officer by the end of the year.

David Coleridge, who is up for re-election as chairman of Lloyd's at the end of the year, said the Walker report was "an honest criticism of perceived weaknesses which we will address with all possible speed". He said regulation must not be allowed to stifle underwriters' expertise. □ A court ruled yesterday that Lloyd's did not have a duty of care to its members over management of the Oakeley Vaughan syndicates.

Spiral of loss, page 21  
Comment, page 23



Promising a speedy response: David Coleridge reacting to the critical Walker report yesterday

## Names welcome findings as fuel for fight

BY NEIL BENNETT

LLOYD'S names welcomed the publication of the Walker report and promised to use its condemnation of lax standards in the insurance market as evidence in future legal action to recover some of their multi-million pound losses.

Alfred Doll-Steinberg, chairman of the Gooda-Walker Action Group, said: "For the first time we have an official version of how the LMX spiral operated. The report is couched in cautious language

but every other paragraph contains implicit or explicit criticism of the market and the regulatory system," he said. "This is concrete evidence for use in a court of law. We believe we will have great facility for getting legal remedies from this."

Mark Farrer, chairman of the Association of Lloyd's Members, congratulated Sir Jeremy Morse on a "thorough" report calling for a new structure for Lloyd's. "The thrust of the proposals is to define responsibilities clearly,

to make the governance structure more responsive and to place a proper emphasis on business development."

The Labour party called on the Lloyd's council to say what disciplinary action it plans following the Walker report's findings of unacceptable standards among some Lloyd's professionals.

Paul Archard, chairman of the Lloyd's Underwriters Association, was pleased the Walker committee had found no evidence of fraud or any attempt to manipulate the

market. He admitted that the professionals in Lloyd's were partly to blame for the LMX losses. "If you look at the 1989 results, how can you say we were all doing our best," he said. On the Morse report, he said the changes should be adopted immediately to help the market recover. "I am feeling quite enthusiastic about the market now. Rates are going up and prospects are good. Names are going to stick with us, and these changes will all help to build on what we are doing."

## Depressed market forces MFI to cut its flotation share price

BY MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

MFI has been forced to discount its shares by more than 20 per cent in an attempt to ensure a successful refloatation next week.

Britain's leading furniture retailer and manufacturer has priced its shares at 115p each, compared with the 145p that was thought possible when the float plans were put in motion last month.

The soggy state of the stock market and the poor reception given to other share sales forced the group to cut its price sharply. GPA's share sale was pulled, Wellcome's shares have tumbled more than 25 per cent since sale plans were unveiled and The Telegraph saw more than two thirds of its shares left by the underwriters on Wednesday.

At 115p a share, MFI is valued at £669 million. The flotation will raise £545 million for the company, compared with the £750 million envisaged in April's post-election euphoria. But it is still enough to repay the group's £500 million of debt and leave some over.

There will be no immediate share bonanza for Derek Hunt, chairman and chief executive, and his executives. They have shelved plans to sell up to 20 per cent of their holdings. However, six of the seven executive directors who backed the 1987 management buyout from Asda will each receive £1 million bonuses on completion of the flotation. The seventh, Mr Hunt, will collect £1.3 million.

There will have been disappointment, too, at Asda,

which will realise £73 million on the sale of its stake. At one point, the hard-pressed supermarket chain looked like collecting £90 million.

Of the 547 million shares being sold by MFI, 410 million had been placed last night. The only disappointment was that only 6.18 million were placed with UK financial intermediaries. The public offer, through which the group will sell the remaining 137 million shares, will close next Friday.

Nick Bubb, at Morgan Stanley, believes MFI can make pre-tax profits of £94 million this year, to give earnings of 13.4p a share. This suggests that the 115p offer price buys just 8.6 years' earnings, and explains why the placing had been completed by 4.15 pm yesterday.

## SIB will not publish full Imro report

THE Securities and Investments Board (SIB) yesterday said it would not publish a full report prepared by the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro) on its part in the Maxwell affair because it could prejudice pending legal action.

Imro passed the report to the SIB on June 5. The SIB recently gave the Treasury an assessment of Imro's report into the theft of more than £450 million from Maxwell pension funds as well as an assessment of its own performance. The government has asked the SIB to elaborate on a number of issues.

The SIB said that "as soon as this further work has been completed, it will make a statement setting out its assessments and the actions it is taking together with a summary of Imro's conclusions."

## Hi-Tec stumbles in Olympic year

BY GEORGE SIVELL

FRANK van Wezel might have expected Olympic year to raise Hi-Tec, the sports shoe group, to the heights; instead it appears to be plunging into the Stygian depths.

The stock market put the boot in to the personal fortune of Mr van Wezel, the chairman of Hi-Tec, after he delivered a profits warning at the sports shoe group's annual meeting. Mr van Wezel lost £16.63 million on paper yesterday as the shares fell from 175p to 106p. He still owns 56 per cent of Hi-Tec shares, worth £25.5 million on paper at last night's close. Behind the profits warning lies an admission of temporary defeat by Hi-Tec in the



Van Wezel: cost cutting

race against Nike and Reebok for the British training shoe market.

Khaloq Taimuri, analyst at Carr Kitch & Aitken, the broker, said "the dumping of excess stock" combined with

the lack of upturn in consumer demand had hurt Hi-Tec. Mr Taimuri said Nike, Reebok and LA Gear had been cutting prices by up to 40 per cent to achieve sales in Britain. Such discounts bring Nike and Reebok into the price range traditionally occupied by Hi-Tec, forcing Hi-Tec in turn to cut prices to maintain sales.

Mr Taimuri has cut his forecast for the full year to January 1993 from £11 million pre-tax profit to £4 million. He expects a break-even at the half year stage.

Yesterday's events appear to justify Hi-Tec's efforts to diversify out of the British training shoe market into broader markets around the world. Analysts say the

North American hiking market is going well for Hi-Tec and expect European textiles brands to do well.

At the annual meeting Mr van Wezel said: "Our UK sales so far this year are significantly below those achieved in the corresponding period of last year, and are below our earlier expectations, and we are expecting a sharper squeeze on margins. Inevitably, these factors will have a pronounced adverse impact on our overall results for the first half of this year."

"We have already taken steps to reduce our British cost base, for example, by reductions in our workforce, and we are keeping a tight control on working capital."



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## Profits at Fleming soar 59%

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

ROBERT Fleming has become the second most profitable merchant bank in the City, behind SG Warburg. In the year to March 31, its pre-tax profits surged by 59 per cent to £76.6 million.

The privately owned bank revealed pre-tax profits for the first time, as part of a move towards full public disclosure of its results. Previously it announced only the after-tax figure. Fleming still holds secret, inner reserves which it will be forced to reveal in 1994 by the European Commission's bank account directive.

John Manser, chief executive, said the bank had had a satisfactory but not outstanding year in all areas. Fleming was beginning to make its figures more public to emphasise the group's size. "Our group is larger and more diverse than people imagine. It is important that people are aware of the strength of our operations."

Fleming is acting as global co-ordinator in the imminent Wellcome share sale, one of the largest corporate finance transactions it has ever attempted. It has set up a computerised centre to monitor institutional demand and handle allocations.

Mr Manser said the current year had started well with the Wellcome sale. "It is still early days though, and markets are going through a nervous period," he said. "The world badly needs lower interest rates."

All the group's operations improved their performance in the past year except securities, which were hit by the downturn in the Tokyo stock market. The British securities business reduced its losses; profits fell in the European business.

Asset management remains Fleming's largest business; assets under management were steady at £27 billion. The group is still Britain's largest investment trust manager, having launched an emerging markets trust and a £90 million income and capital trust. Save & Proper, Fleming's unit trust and pensions manager, sold £169 million in personal equity plans.

Mr Manser said the group's banking division was also successful, suffering only a small increase in bad debts on its £800 million loan book. Provisions remained less than 1 per cent of loans.

Jardine Fleming, the bank's 17-year-old joint venture in the Far East with Jardine Matheson, the trading group, increased net profits by 14 per cent to US\$84 million.

## GGT pegs payout as figures dip

Gold Greenless Trott, the advertising and marketing services group, said trading conditions continued to be difficult. The final dividend is held at 5p making an unchanged total of 8.3p, despite a decline in pre-tax profits to £4.09 million (£5.02 million) in the year to the end of April.

Operating profits were down from £5.58 million to £5.16 million on turnover reduced from £266.6 million to £234.1 million.

## Fatter Farepak

Farepak, a food hamper supplier, raised pre-tax profits 31 per cent to £4.84 million in the year to April 30 on sales up 35 per cent to £62.8 million. The total dividend rises 29 per cent to 5p from earnings per share up 29 per cent to 14.3p.

## EC allows bid

The European Commission has approved a bid by Britain's J Bibby & Sons for Finanzauto SA, which is involved in the distribution of earth-moving equipment in Spain and Portugal.



Healthy growth: David Morris, chairman, left, and Tony Hadfield, managing director, yesterday revealed a rise of 41 per cent to £98.2 million in Northern Electric's pre-tax profits for the year to end-March. The dividend is 18.55p (16.25p). *Tempos, page 22*

## Markheath slips deeper into loss

MARKHEATH, a property investment and development group, has written off £21.7 million against its accounts for the year to March, mostly provisions against the fall in its property values. It has scrapped its final dividend (Michael Tate writes).

The provisions have left the company, 61.5 per cent of which is owned by the Adelaide Steamship group, with a pre-tax loss of £22.8 million for the year, compared with

the £4.1 million deficit recorded for 1990-1.

There is no final dividend to add to the 0.5p interim that shareholders have already received. Last year, they collected 4p, split evenly between the interim and final payments.

Michael Rendle, the former BP managing director brought in as chairman a year ago, said the strategy was to reduce borrowings through asset disposals and cuts in overheads. "The quality of

Markheath's property portfolio remains the group's greatest strength," he said.

The bulk of the provisions, £15.5 million, relate to the diminution of the group's property values.

Following the provisions, net assets are £55 million, or 45.1p a share, against £78.9 million, or 64.6p, a year ago. By the year-end, the company's net borrowings had been reduced from £95.4 million to £72.9 million.

## EC gives France go-ahead to aid Bull

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

THE European Commission has cleared plans by the French government to inject Fr6.7 billion into Bull, the state-owned computer maker.

The decision came after a year-long investigation into whether the funds provided by the French government would amount to a distortion of competition. Bull's European rivals, including ICL of Britain, had claimed that they would.

Of the money promised by the French government, Fr4 billion is in the form of a capital increase, half of which was already committed last year, with the remainder due later this year. The remaining Fr2.7 billion is for research and development.

The commission argued that the funding was legal because it was "a necessary part" of a subsequent restructuring programme, in which Bull laid off close to 10,000 staff. The commission said that the restructuring was crucial to its decision, which might have been different a year earlier.

The complex recapitalisation of Bull can now go ahead as scheduled. A vital element was IBM's decision earlier this year to take a 5.7 per cent stake in Bull in a deal that also included an ambitious technological agreement under which Bull agreed to use IBM's Risc (reduced instruction set computing) architecture.

The chances of a ruling against Bull and the French government were slim, regardless of the investigation's outcome. France is just over two months away from its referendum on the Maastricht treaty, and a ruling against Bull would have infuriated the French government, whose industrial policy has come under severe attack from Sir Leon Brittan, the competition commissioner. The most celebrated case was two years ago, when Sir Leon ordered the French government to repay aid granted to Renault, the carmaker.

## T&N shares jump after asbestos claim fails

T&N shares rose 5p to 143p yesterday after the industrial group said it had been dismissed from a \$75 million-plus-interest damage claim in the United States. The claim had been brought by Prudential Insurance Company of America over asbestos in fireproofing material in the Prudential Centre in Boston, Massachusetts, built between 1959 and 1962.

Colin Hope, T&N chairman and chief executive, commented that significant defences are available to the company in such claims and that it would continue to defend itself vigorously against what it believes to be exaggerated and unmeritorious claims. After a three-week trial an American court found that T&N had no liability to compensate Prudential for alleged costs in dealing with the material.

## Alba bucks the trend

ALBA, manufacturer of consumer electronics, bucked the depressed trend in consumer spending to increase taxable profits from £4.2 million to £5.06 million in the year to the end of March. Although sales slipped from £111.2 million to £10.97 million, trading profits increased from £4.5 million to £5.1 million despite a £656,000 trading loss at Hünari Deutschland, the German subsidiary that is being closed. Trading profits from continuing activities rose 73.3 per cent. The final dividend is lifted to 3.75p (3.35p), making 4.75p (4.35p).

## Sims Food ahead

SIMS Food Group, the fresh meat processor, increased pre-tax profits 13 per cent in the year to end-March to £9.31 million, but shareholders are warned that the recession is now having a "very serious effect on the industry". The results show a 10 per cent advance in turnover to £251 million. Operating profits surged 19 per cent to £11.3 million, but the £403,000 cost of last year's boardroom changes, which included the resignation of Ron Randall, chief executive, has reduced the rise at the pre-tax stage to 13.3 per cent. The final dividend rises to 8.2p, making 11.25p (10.25p).

## John Tams placing

JOHN Tams Group, a maker of coffee mugs, tableware and china, is raising £1.6 million through a placing and offer of new shares. Investors are offered one new share for every ten existing shares at 70p, against yesterday's market price of 75p, down 2p. About £800,000 is needed to convert a works in Stoke-on-Trent into a distribution centre. The balance will be used to reduce borrowings. After the placing, directors' shareholdings, including the Tams family interest, will be reduced from 79.4 per cent to 72.1 per cent.

## Dewhurst profit up

DEWHURST, a maker of electrical control equipment, increased profits from £201,330 before tax to £309,874 in the six months to March 31. Earnings rose from 1.22p a share to 1.85p and the interim dividend is increased from 0.6p to 0.63p. Turnover rose slightly from £3.9 million to £4.21 million and trading profits from £201,330 to £309,874. The company said it was confident that a high level of investment in product development over recent years would continue to support profit recovery.

## INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

### VACANCY NOTICE

#### Interim Director General of the Regional African Satellite Communications System (RASCOM)

The position described below is to be filled in the executive organ of a recently established commercial African Satellite Organization based in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

Position: Interim Director General.

Job function: Under the direction of the Board of Directors of the RASCOM Organization, the Director General shall have the following main responsibilities.

#### INTERIM DIRECTOR GENERAL OF RASCOM

##### Main responsibilities:

- To ensure the setting-up of RASCOM Organization including making appropriate appointments for the RASCOM establishment;
- To ensure that the organization is run according to the Convention and Operating Agreement;
- To ensure overall discharge of all operational matters relating to both terrestrial and space segment needs of the Organization;
- To assume the responsibility for all public relation matters of the Organization;
- Ensure the implementation of the decisions adopted by RASCOM Board of Directors;
- Representations of the executive organ at the meeting of the Board of Directors;
- Ensuring the successful implementation of contracts in accordance with the directives of the Board and other guidelines that may be applicable;
- Act as legal representative of the RASCOM Organization with authority to sign contracts and appropriate agreements in accordance with established procedures;
- Ensure financial discipline in accordance with the established financial procedures and directives of the Board;
- To oversee all matters relating to the staff;
- To perform any other assignment that may be entrusted to him by the Board of Directors.

##### External contacts:

- Satellite systems providers;
- International telecommunications organizations;
- National telecommunications organizations;
- Financial institutions;
- Equipment manufacturers.

##### Required qualifications:

1. Advanced level degree in telecommunications or science-related fields. Post-graduate professional training in management would be an added advantage.
2. Suitable experience of at least 12 years in the field of telecommunications, including at least five years in high managerial level. International exposure can be an added advantage.

3. Excellent reputation, honesty and integrity, proven team builder coupled with leadership qualities.
4. Self-motivated, resourceful, excellent interpersonal skills, and organizational ability.
5. Excellent knowledge of either English or French. A good knowledge of the other language would be an added advantage.
6. Age not more than 55 years.
7. Applicant must be an African.

##### The RASCOM Organization

By decision and resolution RASCOM/O2 of the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Telecommunications, Abidjan, May 1992, a regional African satellite organization is established with its Headquarters in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

The main objective of the organization shall be to provide on a commercial basis, and by the most economical means, the space segment required for national and intra-African public telecommunications services in Africa, which will form part of an integrated African telecommunications network.

The organization now seeks exceptional candidates to form the core team for its executive organ to take up the challenge of establishment of the organization from scratch.

Prospects for successful candidates are excellent including negotiable salaries and conditions of employment comparable to those in other similar international organizations.

The Vacancy Notice is open equally to men and women. Selection will be on the basis of a C.V. and an interview.

##### Directives

Candidates should be submitted in two separate enclosed envelopes as follows:

- 1) The first envelope should contain:
  - the application in manuscript addressed to the RASCOM Board of Governors;
  - a detailed Curriculum Vitae based on U.N.D.P. (U.N.) personal history form.

N.B: This envelope should mandatorily bear the following: "Candidates for the post of the RASCOM Interim Director-General: to be opened only by the first meeting of the Board of Governors."

- 2) The second envelope in which the first envelope should be enclosed, should bear the following address and posted under registered cover:

Mr Y. C. Afanou,  
Organization of African Unity,  
P.O. Box 3243,  
Addis Ababa,  
ETHIOPIA

N.B: Candidates should reach the above address by 30 October, 1992 at the latest.

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THE TIMES FRIDAY JULY 3 1992

## THE TWO LLOYD'S REPORTS

# How names were sucked into a spiral of loss

The Walker report on the LMX spiral offers an 18-point plan to ensure that names need never again suffer such ruinous losses, says Neil Bennett



Sir David: damning

SIR David Walker's report into the operation of the London market excess of loss (LMX) spiral is a damning condemnation of the working practices of the insurance market. It recommends a series of sweeping new regulations designed to protect names from excessive risk, increase Lloyd's regulatory powers and improve professional standards within the market.

In an opening letter to David Coleridge, Lloyd's chairman, Sir David outlined the gravity of Lloyd's difficulties but stressed that his suggested reforms could help the market to recover. "It is of immense importance for Lloyd's to learn from the hard and sharp experience and to find a way forward," he said.

"We believe the implementation of our proposals will greatly reduce

the risk that comparable losses will be faced by names in future. While we find much to criticise, weaknesses that have been identified can be rectified, though the task needs to be approached vigorously."

**'Brokers can be persuasive and some underwriters are more likely to be influenced by blandishments than others'**

The report gives a graphic account of how the LMX spiral, once one of the most profitable areas of Lloyd's, crashed into unprecedented losses and brought ruin to thousands of Lloyd's names. In 1989, just 14 LMX syndicates lost £952 million, more than half the market's total losses, while all the LMX lost £1.17 billion.

The report shows how real underwriting risks were concealed through successive reinsurance, and how premiums were squeezed through intense competition. The report's introduction is an indictment of the standards among Lloyd's professionals, both members' agents, which look after names and place them on syndi-

cates, and managing agents, which run Lloyd's underwriting syndicates.

"The committee viewed standards of professionalism, care and diligence on the part of a number of members' and managing agents and active underwriters as falling materially below best practice. The approach to fiduciary responsibilities, in the case of several members' agents, [was] lax... and certain aspects of regulatory policies [were] insufficient to identify shortcomings in performance."

The report criticises all the professionals involved in the LMX spiral, underwriters, brokers and members' agents, whose practices contributed to the massive losses.

The growth of the reinsurance market was also encouraged by smooth-talking brokers who took a 10 per cent commission on every contract, but the brokers came off most lightly in the committee's criticisms. The report says there is no evidence that brokers bribed underwriters to accept LMX business. "Brokers are capable of being very persuasive and some underwriters are more likely to be influenced by their blandishments than others," the report says. "The committee believes that active underwriters on several of the loss-making syndicates were heavily influenced by LMX brokers. But the committee believes the responsibility rests and should rest with active underwriters."

Members' agents come in for criticism for being too eager to recruit unsuitable names. "The committee considers that standards for the registration of members' agents have been insufficiently rigorous in the past, with some favour, that more emphasis may have been given to helping applicants over the sill than to filtering out the unsuitable."

The weakness in the LMX spiral was exposed when the market suffered a series of catastrophe losses, including the hurricane of 1987, the Piper Alpha explosion in 1988 and the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989.

The events that led to the losses, however, began in the early 1980s, when reinsurers began to reinsure themselves against heavy losses.

"The LMX spiral was created through the interchange of business to which this led, involving a transfer of exposures within the market rather than their dispersal."



The problems occurred when the spiral became too complex for insurers to assess risk. "The transfer of risk within the market meant that transparency virtually disappeared. It seems that some underwriters who were ready to take on LMX business typically questioned the broker only about the premium rate on the previous year."

The committee questioned many of the underwriters involved in the market, and has decided they genuinely believed their LMX transactions would improve their syndicates' profits, despite the uncertainty over risk and the commissions taken by brokers at each stage

of the reinsurance. By 1988, the spiral had grown so large that the Piper Alpha disaster generated 43,000 claims, estimated to be worth \$15 billion. This was more than ten times the actual loss.

The spiral then operated to concentrate a large part of the loss on a few syndicates at the end of the chain. Despite the vast number of transactions, the committee found no evidence that there had been any "churning" of business, with policies written solely to generate brokerage fees.

The committee decided, however, that there were no extraordinary features in the LMX market to

prevent Lloyd's underwriters running it properly, and that there is no reason to ban LMX business in future. "There remains a question whether individual underwriters made judgements that... displayed incompetence or negligence. Our review has underlined the importance of training and competence for underwriters and of effective managing agency involvement in the assessment and control of aggregate exposures and possible catastrophe scenarios."

Statistics in the report reveal that market insiders have consistently received better returns than external names. "We do not find the

development of the LMX spiral to have been distorted by conspiracy or misfeasance," it states.

"Equally, we were unimpressed by the standards of performance achieved by some managing agents and believe that... seriously flawed underwriting judgements may have been constrained if active underwriters had been subject to more effective control."

The Walker report makes seven main observations about ways to improve the management of Lloyd's, and 18 specific recommendations to strengthen the regulation of the market. Yesterday, David Coleridge, chairman of Lloyd's, said he accepted the recommendations in principle and would begin work immediately to put them into effect.

The main observations include: "We see the need for a deliberate change in Lloyd's regulatory approach in the direction of a more pro-active stance... and more vigorous enforcement and disciplinary action."

"Lloyd's regulatory arm should have access to an advisory panel of practitioners, some but not all of whom may be retired, as a point of reference."

"The challenge for Lloyd's as regulator is to ensure that the standards of the rest are consistently brought much closer to the standards of the best."

"Lloyd's as regulator should be ready to pursue cases where standards are inadequate, even where these do not involve misfeasance."

"We wish to stress the importance of proper discharge of [underwriters'] responsibilities by managing agents."

"We fully support the recommendations for strengthening professional skills as set out in the Task Force report."

"Implementation of proposals designed to promote high standards of agents' performance should enhance both the suitability and equity of capacity allocation to names. But we hope the lively engagement of names in present disputes will be succeeded by a greater continuing interest in their underwriting affairs."

Underlying the recommendations in the report is the principle of "know your client", which is enshrined in the Financial Services Act and was championed by Sir David Walker when he was chairman of the Securities and Investments Board.

The statistics in the report show how market professionals performed better as names than non-working names. In 1983, for example, directors of managing and members' agents made an average return of 6.2 per cent on their lines in the market, while non-working names made only 4.5 per cent. In 1989, directors took an average loss of 14.4 per cent, while non-working names suffered one of 18.3 per cent.

The Walker committee, however, decided there was nothing improper in the gap between the performance figures. "The analysis indicates that insiders have tended to fare better than external names, though not on an immodest scale

given the inevitably superior market knowledge available to many working in the market. In some cases, insiders were substantially advantaged by their membership of certain syndicates, while others fared as badly as external names through the recent phase of losses."

The 18 recommendations cover four main areas. First, the report calls for Lloyd's to carry out a volatility analysis of the different classes of insurance in the market. This could be then used as an index to ensure that individual names are not exposed to excessive risk.

Second, the report calls for Lloyd's to collect detailed information on the performance of syndicates and changes in their capacity. This will be broken down to highlight the activities of the directors of managing agents, members' agents, directors of broking firms

**Despite the vast number of deals, no evidence was found of 'churning', with policies written solely to generate fees**

and other market professionals. This will alert the market to any changes in market sentiment about a syndicate. The report also calls for a tightening of regulations on allocating syndicate capacity.

The most important area of the recommendations is the committee's call for members' agents to carry out annual appraisals of their names. This will prevent names taking on too much risk or too much capacity, then facing ruin if they suffer heavy losses.

Finally, the report calls for tighter standards among managing agents. It recommends that they should ensure that underwriting policy statements are prepared and authorised by reference to risk categories.

The recommendations conclude with another call for Lloyd's to step up its regulatory activities. The market should increase the frequency of inspection visits and set up an advisory panel to comment on the regulations of members' and managing agents.

The committee believes that all these changes can be implemented alongside the recommendations in the Task Force report, and holds out hope for the future of Lloyd's. "We believe that confidence in Lloyd's conduct of its affairs can be rebuilt - necessary not only for the existing capital base but also for the prospect of introducing corporate capital - if firm and early action is taken. Most of the recommendations in this report are capable of early implementation and all could be undertaken within the framework of self-regulation under which Lloyd's currently operates."

Comment, page 23

## Blueprint for a better regulated future at Lloyd's

Two powerful new boards are among key points in the Morse report that have already been accepted by Lloyd's. Report by Jon Ashworth



Morse: sweeping changes

SIR Jeremy Morse's report on a new structure of governance for Lloyd's recommends a sweeping set of proposals that will change the market beyond recognition.

The council of Lloyd's will be halved in size and diminished in importance. Two new supervisory bodies are to be set up, one dealing with regulatory matters, the other with the business conduct of the market, and a new head, the chief executive officer, will take over many of the responsibilities of the present chairman.

Sir Jeremy, chairman of Lloyd's Bank and a member of Lloyd's council, was appointed in January to lead a working party assessing the findings of a taskforce run by David Rowland, chairman of Sedgwick Group. The taskforce was appointed in January 1991 to identify a framework within which Lloyd's would trade in five to seven years' time. Among its key proposals was a new structure of governance for the market. That was originally rejected by the Lloyd's council but in the light of the "extensive discussion" generated, a working party was convened to reappraise the Rowland report.

The main conclusions are relatively simple. From January 1, 1993, the governance of Lloyd's will fall under a tripartite structure. Two new bodies, a regulatory

board and a market board, will be formed to look after business and regulatory functions, reflecting the separation advocated by the taskforce. The Lloyd's council will sit at the top of a triangle as the senior legislative body and have no say in the regulation of the market.

The regulatory board will act as "an informed monitor and facilitator", putting in place an appropriate regulatory structure for the market's business. The market board will be the "driving force" in the development of Lloyd's, taking responsibility for compliance and making sure the regulatory board is well informed.

The Morse report mirrors Sir David Walker's conclusions in suggesting that regulation of Lloyd's has been out of touch with reality. "Our reading of recent events suggests to some of us that regulation may not have followed market developments closely enough, whether because the non-working members of the council were not sufficiently informed or because the council has been reluctant to go too far into the detail of market practices."

Concern is expressed about imbalances in the present structure. A new structure of governance would aim to solve "a concern that the present mixed structure does not accord the right status to either

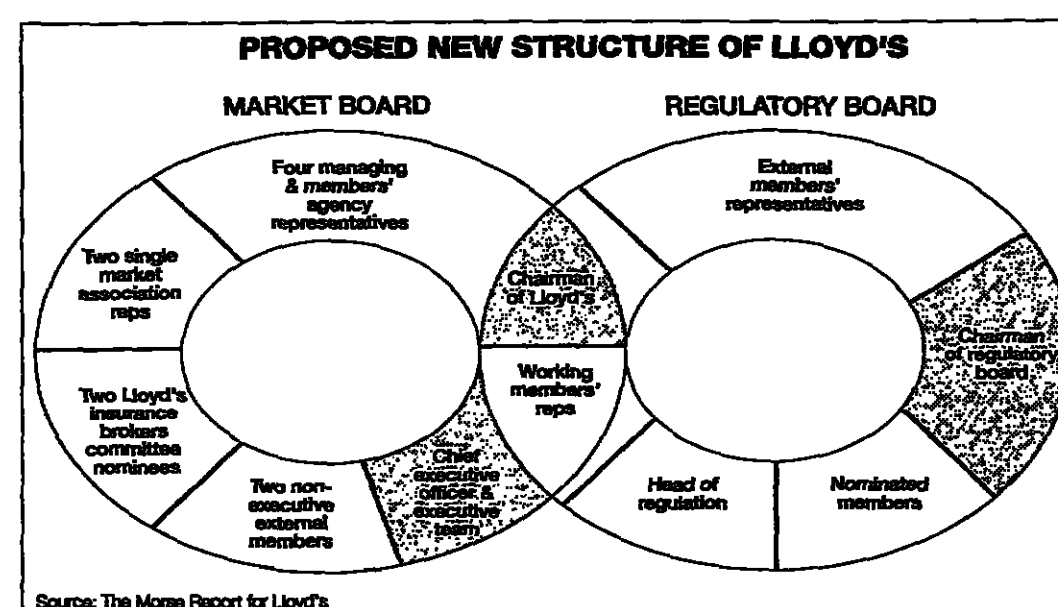
business development or regulation, with a perceived tendency for business leadership to be squeezed out". The working party also felt that the regulatory function had distanced Lloyd's central activities from the market and made them "too bureaucratic".

The report says the committee of Lloyd's has "insufficient weight" to provide business services to the market, making it appear less accountable to the market than it should be. The council is also thought too large in proportion to its present functions.

The Lloyd's council will gradually be reduced in size over the next 18 months. By January 1994, it will have fallen from 28 to 14 members, made up of six working members, including the chairman of Lloyd's and two elected deputies, four nominated members and four external members. Nominated members will be drawn from outside Lloyd's and appointed by the Governor of the Bank of England.

The new look council would preserve the current balance between its three constituencies: elected working members, elected external members and nominated members. The Morse report recommends that the chief executive officer and head of regulation should be present in attendance, but the council has taken the view that it may be better for them to take full council status. This point is still subject to debate.

The market board will have 15 or 16 members and be led by a committee of six working members, headed by the chairman of Lloyd's and his deputies. Beneath them will sit four working members, including two representatives from underwriting associations, one from the Lloyd's Underwriting Agents Association and one from the Lloyd's Insurance Brokers' Committee. There will be two or three non-executive members appointed by the council, possibly external names, and the chief executive officer, an ex officio appointment. Finally, there will be two other executives, selected by the



chairman and chief executive officer, and drawn from senior Lloyd's personnel.

An outsider, a nominated member of council, will head the regulatory board, and be known as deputy chairman of Lloyd's as a courtesy. The regulatory board will include all the nominated and external members of the council, together with four working members appointed by the council. They will be joined by the head of regulation and the solicitor to the corporation of Lloyd's, both ex officio appointments.

The main players in the new triangular structure will be the chief executive officer, the chairman of Lloyd's and the chairman of the regulatory board. The Morse report stresses the need for a "close and effective working relationship" between the chief executive officer and the chairman.

There is some overlap. The chairman of Lloyd's is almost certain to head the market board in addition to his council duties, but will be distanced from the regulatory board. It is regarded as important that the chairman

should be freed from regulatory work to enable him to concentrate on the role of business leader and representative of the business interests of the entire market.

The chairman of the regulatory board would bear the brunt of the regulatory work. He would be obliged to relinquish any business commitments in the Lloyd's market. This would avoid the risk of conflicts of interest which could undermine his authority. In his capacity as head of the market board, the chairman of Lloyd's would be concerned with business development and external relations "at the highest level", rather than deal with the fine details of regulation, business planning or administration.

The Lloyd's Act (1982) requires him to remain a working member of Lloyd's but the Morse report concludes that he should devote a "substantial" amount of time to his new role. His continuing activities as a working name should be undertaken in a non-executive capacity. He would be paid on a basis that "properly reflects his status and the heavy burden of his

duties" and serve, subject to re-election, for a minimum period of three years.

Steps are being taken to recruit a chief executive officer, but an appointment is unlikely before the end of the year. The retirement of Alan Lord as deputy chairman and chief executive at the end of June has left a vacuum that will be filled by a trio of Lloyd's personnel comprising John Gaynor, head of finance, Andrew Duguid, head of market services, and Bob Hewes, head of regulation. They will take on executive responsibilities until the chief executive's post has been filled.

The Morse report is quite specific about the criteria for the post. The chief executive must be a businessman with proven commercial and financial skills and a first-rate track record in running a large organisation. He will take most important decisions at Lloyd's and take on full responsibility for managing the business units within the new structure. He will need to be responsive to regulation and should have a good understanding of how regulatory structures work.

He may be a member of Lloyd's, but if so would have to resign any Lloyd's market directorships and put any interests in Lloyd's businesses into trust.

The proposed term of office is five years, with a remuneration package that would appeal to top candidates.

Sir Jeremy's inquiry also considered the role of Lloyd's brokers. It concluded that a conflict of interest can arise between a broker's duty to his client and his responsibilities towards Lloyd's. However, it was felt that the advantages of including brokers in the new structure outweigh any problems.

Two of the most radical proposals concern the decline in importance of the council and the chairman. The council will become less important than the regulatory board and the market board, while retaining an ultimate say in how Lloyd's should be run. It would normally accept recommendations of its two offshoots.

The future of Lloyd's depends on concerted action within a market place dominated by many different interests. The Morse report ends with a warning that tough steps might be needed if these differences cannot be overcome. Measures could, ultimately, include the use of regulation to bring miscreants into line.

Sir Jeremy's working party received more than 1,000 written responses from a range of interests, including market associations and the 'association of Lloyd's Members'. The responses highlighted three points on which the Lloyd's membership has strong feelings.

About 40 per cent of replies supported the recommendations of the taskforce as a whole. Only a handful rejected them out of hand. More than 65 per cent favoured a complete separation of business and regulatory functions; only a handful rejected this.

Just under a fifth of the responses, 17 per cent, were in favour of an independent "outside" chairman. The Lloyd's Act (1982) requires that the chairman of council be a working member.







## Fed wages war on recession

There was one consolation for the American authorities in yesterday's shocking employment figures. The arguments between the White House and the Federal Reserve Board over the level of interest rates should now be settled for many months to come. Even President Bush will presumably be satisfied with the Fed's immediate reaction to the unexpected collapse in employment, which portends a run of extremely weak economic figures in the month or two ahead. As Richard Syron, president of the Boston Fed, said immediately after the Fed cut its discount rate by half a point to 3 per cent, the central bank's action speaks "loudly, clearly and forcefully for itself".

By injecting reserves aggressively after its largely symbolic discount rate cut, the Fed forced market rates down by half a point, rather than the traditional quarter. The move seemed to be an admission that the quarter-point cuts of the past 12 months had been too cautious. It was a declaration of all-out war against recession and unemployment, and this is a war in which even lower interest rates cannot be ruled out. Sceptics may say monetary policy has proved impotent in the face of the fear and gloom seizing American consumers and industrialists. But it is probably more realistic to put this argument the other way round. If the new interest rates fail to revive the American economy, they will be cut again. While the new fed funds rate of 3.25 per cent may seem like a low number, the monetary ammunition is not exhausted as long as money costs more than zero.

Thus the financial implications of yesterday's events may be surprising. If the Fed becomes more aggressive in stimulating the economy, a strong recovery will eventually take off. Significantly, the dollar did not collapse yesterday as most traders had predicted. As in December, the widening of the interest rate gap between America and Germany may well push the dollar up, on hopes of economic recovery, instead of down. For Wall Street, yesterday's news was almost certainly bullish. A sluggish recovery with falling interest rates and high unemployment spells steeply rising profits. The months after the economy takes off and interest rates start rising will be the period of greatest danger for the bulls. The slogan on Wall Street these days is not "Go, go" but "Slow, go".

## Lloyd's blueprint

As an institution that resents outside criticism almost to the point of paranoia, Lloyd's will find the report of Sir David Walker difficult to take. The document catalogues inadequacies and delivers polite reprimands on almost every one of its 50-plus pages. Among the most astonishing is that Lloyd's itself does not need the kind of detailed database that Sir David needed in order to undertake his investigation into syndicate participations and the so-called LMX spiral disaster. So much for professionalism in the discharge of Lloyd's regulatory duties.

Much of Lloyd's laxity in taking care of its names has been tolerated in defence of the principle that underwriters cannot operate effectively unless their discretion is unconstrained. Sir David gives a strong warning against the lack of realism in this and comments adversely on the competence of underwriting decisions. David Coleridge, Lloyd's chairman, alluded to this in a speech yesterday, accepting with no apparent enthusiasm that changes must be made.

Sir David is to be congratulated for delving into areas of detail where Lloyd's cared not to tread. His report, especially the technical proposals on risk assessment and volatility analysis, will if enthusiastically implemented pave the way for a fairer and more profitable Lloyd's.

# Capitalist explosion rocks Swedish cradle-to-grave welfare state

The Bildt government sees privatisations and budget cuts as the key to an 'enterprise friendly' economy, writes Colin Narbrough

Throughout the spring, bomb attacks on public monuments in Stockholm created unease among the peace-loving Swedes. There may prove to be no profound motive for the demolition campaign. Yet the detonations have a peculiar aptness as Sweden undergoes economic and social upheaval of historic proportions. Two of the targets symbolised the Nordic nation's progress this century: a statue of Hjalmar Branting, the first social democratic prime minister, and an effigy of Bacchus, the god of wine and ecstasy.

In the opening decades of this century, it was Branting who led the Swedish workers' push to power, challenging the industrial barons, then working with them against the anti-industrial right wing. After almost 60 years of political dominance, the social democrats were ousted from power last autumn. As for self-indulgence in work and play, Sweden has an international reputation that is only partly deserved.

The sheer pace and degree of change ought to make the Stockholm bombings pale into insignificance. The revolution undertaken by the conservative-led coalition of prime minister Carl Bildt since it took power in October has been overturning monuments to the social democratic past and its cradle-to-grave welfare state. The huge public sector is being reduced in size and the formerly punitive tax regime made enterprise-friendly. Accompanying deregulation and the removal of barriers to foreign investors, a privatisation programme to raise up to 250 billion kronor (£23.8 billion), involving the sale of 35 state-owned enterprises, was launched last month.

Mr Bildt's commitment to "creating opportunities for growth" looks set to take Sweden along a road similar to that Margaret Thatcher chose for Britain in 1979. An important difference in Sweden is that the social democrats saw the writing on the wall in the Eighties; before the party was dismissed from power last September.

Ingvar Carlsson, the former social democratic prime minister, last year secured government backing for Sweden's application to join the EC and pegged the krona to the ecu. In autumn 1990, with East-West divisions tumbling and socialism in retreat, Mr Carlsson pushed the plunger on the "Swedish model" based on demand-management principles, delivering a Kr15 billion package of health and public service cuts. Even now, some are dissatisfied with the speed of change. The "new democracy" party, once branded a



Branting out: the bomb-damaged statue of Hjalmar Branting, a social democrat, in Stockholm

group of right-wing loonies, has 25 seats in the Riksdagen parliament. These give it the balance of power and enable it to act as guardian against any backsliding on tax cuts.

Anne Wibbelle, the finance minister, has made the fight against inflation a priority. Inflation was slowed to an annual 2.2 per cent in May, the lowest headline rate in Europe, and is still slowing. A year ago it stood at almost 11 per cent. Wage inflation has fallen to an annual 3.5 per cent. To secure low inflation, fiscal policy is being kept tight and structural changes introduced to enhance productivity, which is making impressive gains. Tax cuts are to be financed by paring back public spending. The downside to this approach during

recession is that the budget deficit is expected to soar to Kr115 billion this year from Kr68 billion last year. After cuts of Kr27 billion in public spending in the January budget (5 per cent of central government spending), the government says it will cut a further Kr30 billion over the next three years.

Heavy cuts are being made in grants to local authorities and housing subsidies. Three quarters of all transfers to households are under review. In the face of steeply rising unemployment, benefits to the jobless are being made conditional on an active attempt to seek work. Generous unemployment benefits, widely seen as the cause of Sweden's high

absenteeism, are to be consigned to the past. Having abandoned the goal of full employment, the Swedish government is having to cope with record unemployment. At about 4.5 per cent, it is still only about half what many western European economies have to suffer. The supplementary budget passed last month contained plans for lowering VAT to 22 from 25 per cent, removing a standard deduction on income tax and ending property taxes on commercial buildings. Industry will be freed from general electricity and fuel taxes, but taxes were raised on carbon-dioxide emissions and household electricity.

This package followed a national audit office forecast of a bigger deficit, mainly reflecting a 10.4 per cent

jump in spending on the jobless. The aim is to restrain spending while reducing the overall tax burden to 51.5 per cent of gross domestic product, from 56 per cent two years ago. The finance ministry expects the budget deficit to rise until 1994-5. Even so, the deficit is expected to be 6 per cent of GDP in 1996. With only two-and-a-half years before the next election, Mr Bildt's haste is warranted. His tough policies appear to be re-establishing confidence rapidly among foreign investors, as well as starting to lure Swedish corporate and personal tax exiles home. Having targeted membership of the EC in 1995, Sweden wants to be ready for the competition. The annual report on Sweden from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development speaks of "grounds for optimism" on employment and growth beyond the short term. "Sweden has now joined the ranks of those who consider the restoration of price stability a *sine qua non* for achieving sustainable full-employment growth," it notes, while praising the government's policy mix, including its self-off plans.

Sweden's deepest recession since the 1930s is, however, likely to linger, with the economy contracting 0.3 per cent this year. The return to growth will not be vigorous, with less than 1 per cent expected next year. Pegging the krona to the ecu appears to have secured market credibility, but the progress on inflation has yet to withstand the test of recovery. That background is not ideal for a stream of privatisations. The programme kicked off well, with the SSAB steel company heavily oversubscribed. Importantly, a large number of Swedish companies are world-class operators. The top 22 companies, accounting for 70 per cent of market capitalisation, average 75 per cent of sales outside Sweden. Thus Swedish recession should not cause too much damage to the value of state holdings for disposal.

The promise of a new golden age for Sweden, despite the collapse of its property market and the attendant disasters for its banks, holds great hopes for investors. The Riksdagen has even approved a Kr20 billion restructuring of the loss-making Nordbanken, Scandinavia's biggest bank, with a view to privatisation.

Privatisations will be conducted at a measured pace, to avoid overloading the market, starting with about Kr10 billion worth in the first year. Procordia, the food and pharmaceuticals group, is tipped as the next disposal. The government's 42.7 per cent stake has been targeted by Volvo.

The programme, which should fetch a total of Kr150 billion, will take until the end of the 1990s to complete. The 11 per cent of GDP it represents will only go part way to squaring the government's fiscal circle. Yet, in a world of privatisations, Sweden has the advantage of companies with first-world, front-rank technologies and a workforce to match.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### PR man's release

THE public relations industry was agog yesterday after hearing of the resignation of David Davis, vice chairman of Edelman PR, after 24 years with the American company, the world's biggest private PR firm. Davis, 55, and Edelman's main man in London for as long as anyone can remember — even though he was once, pre-Edelman, a journalist on *The Times* — says he resigned because he declined to relocate to Hong Kong. "After six years operating and building our businesses in Europe, last October I was given the challenge of doing the same thing with our businesses in Asia," said Davis, who departs today. "Since then we have opened an office in Tokyo and bought businesses in Melbourne, Singapore and Hong Kong. I agree, I now need a local manager but I made it clear at the outset I did not want to relocate. My family comes first and my elderly mother, wife and son are all here." He has no idea what he will do next, he says, looking for a fresh challenge, "another Everest to climb." But he has made three decisions. "One is not to make any decisions in July, the second to definitely stay in London and the third to stay in the PR consultancy business."

### What a corker

EVEN though it is one of the world's richest mining groups — through its Oppenheimer connections — Anglo American was miffed at being



"I see definite signs that the recession is over."

charged £10.50 a bottle corkage on the Boschendal wine, supplied from Anglo's own vineyards, and served at an institutional luncheon at Claridge's yesterday. According to a Savoy Group spokeswoman, its usual corkage charge is £10 on non-sparkling wines, and since Anglo served both, a sum of £10.50 was agreed. The cost, equivalent to the group's normal mark-up on wine, covered Claridge's never less than comprehensive service. "We have to handle and receive the wine, store it, open the cases, chill it in our own ice and our own refrigerators, open the wine, polish the bottles, serve it, clear the glasses, wash up," the spokeswoman said. As one guest put it: "Just as well they didn't bring their own glasses..."

### Very mobile

MALCOLM Bates, deputy managing director of GEC, has discovered that his new

mobile PABX phone, made by GEC's GPT telecoms joint venture, is more mobile than it was intended to be. The cordless handset enables executives to take their telephones with them as they travel around GEC's Mayfair headquarters but Bates returned to his office the other day to find the handset had disappeared. Bates is now hoping that someone in the building borrowed it and that the phone will prove mobile enough to make its way home again. "It would be totally useless to anyone outside GEC since it only works in connection with our telephone exchange," a bemused spokesman says.

### Fries to go go go

IN THE wake of its huge losses, British Rail might consider following the entrepreneurial example of Swiss Federal Railways (SBB) which has just introduced its first McDonald's dining car on lines between Basel and Geneva and Geneva and Brig, Switzerland. The red carriages have the gold McDonald's logo emblazoned on their sides, seat 36 people, and serve the full panoply of Big Macs, Chicken McNuggets and French fries. The carriages have been running for a month and apparently there has often been standing room only although there is not yet any information on whether SBB ticket sales have risen dramatically. A McDonald's spokeswoman in London said there are no plans for an InterCity hamburger car but it is certainly open to offers from BR.

CAROL LEONARD

## BUSINESS LETTER

### Nobody should be surprised at big profits of electricity distributors

From Mr J. W. L. Nicholls

Sir, The delight and surprise with which electricity distribution companies' excessive profits were recently reported seem naive and misplaced. Leaving aside the fact that they have an almost total monopoly of a captive customer base, the reason for their huge profits lies both in the manner in which these profits were reported before privatisation, and the pricing formula that has been used since privatisation.

For four or five years before the event, the government instructed the boards to increase their profits, expressed as a percentage of the inflation-adjusted value of capital employed, from 4 per cent to 4½ per cent, to 5 per cent, to 5½ per cent and finally to 6 per cent.

This last figure is said to equate to 18 per cent on historic costs. Not a bad return on a low-risk business. However, this hike in profits of some 50 per cent on what, over the years, had been considered adequate, is only half the story.

The profit of the last year of national ownership was struck after deducting huge non-recurring costs, such as the cost of privatisation: solicitors' fees, merchant bank fees, reporting accountants' fees, advertising, the cost of setting up the share register and so on.

In addition, there were the "costs" of repaying government loans, and provision for the costs of their new logo on shop fronts, vans and uniforms.

If these costs had been ignored when calculating the return on capital, I suspect that the figure of 18 per cent (6 per cent would have increased

by at least 50 per cent. In the circumstances, substantial and excessive profits must have been expected.

Turning to the post-privatisation era, matters seem no better for the hapless consumer.

The pricing formula allows the distributors to recover from the consumer excessive costs, for instance in the price of power supplies. What an open-ended formula that is! Faced with the same problem, ICI has no option but to close a £1.5 billion a year business, thus putting thousands of people out of work.

In addition to this, if the companies over-estimate the expected increase in RPI in their budgets, they are not seemingly compelled to repay this to the consumer.

In the first year, Eastern Electricity estimated inflation at about 9 per cent when it was in fact about 6 per cent.

A 3 per cent excess on charging, assuming a standard return of, say, 10 per cent profit on sales, results in 33 per cent excess profit.

The following year this was corrected by estimating inflation at some 1 per cent less than it actually was.

As a result, the excess profit, if you ignore the miscalculation of profit pre-privatisation, becomes two points per cent on 10 per cent over two years, or 10 per cent per annum.

In conclusion, sir, I can think of no bounds for the profits of the electricity distribution companies.

Yours faithfully,  
J. W. L. NICHOLLS,  
Mill House,  
Holt St Peter,  
Halesworth,  
Suffolk.

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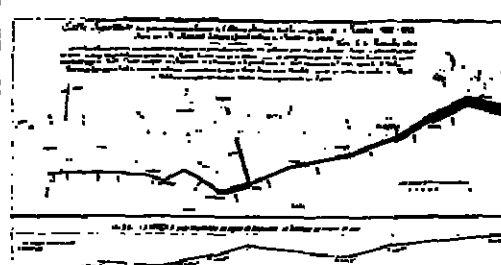
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|-----|------------------|--------------------|-------------|
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| 6   | Kleinwort Ben    | Bank/Fin           | 1.00        |
| 7   | Morgan Cole      | Industrial         | 1.00        |
| 8   | BYRM             | Building/Rts       | 1.00        |
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| 11  | Ferguson Int     | Paper/Print        | 1.00        |
| 12  | Charles Newsum   | Transport          | 1.00        |
| 13  | Beckley          | Building/Rts       | 1.00        |
| 14  | Comanid Text     | Textile            | 1.00        |
| 15  | Black            | Electrical         | 1.00        |
| 16  | Knightsbridge Bk | Building/Rts       | 1.00        |
| 17  | Smith WH & A     | Drugs/Pharm        | 1.00        |
| 18  | Seaton           | Transport          | 1.00        |
| 19  | Quaker Mear      | Food/Pharm         | 1.00        |
| 20  | Sydney           | Industrial         | 1.00        |
| 21  | Radway           | Electrical         | 1.00        |
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| 24  | French Com       | Drugs/Pharm        | 1.00        |
| 25  | Transfer Tech    | Industrial         | 1.00        |
| 26  | Pendragon        | Motor/Air          | 1.00        |
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|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |

The £4,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won yesterday by Miss Chloe Rutherford, of London SW8.

| 1992 | High | Low | Company | Price | Net Yld | P/E |
|------|------|-----|---------|-------|---------|-----|
|------|------|-----|---------|-------|---------|-----|

## BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

| 1992 | High | Low | Company | Price | Net Yld | P/E |
|------|------|-----|---------|-------|---------|-----|
| 317  | 287  | 287 | Abey    | 287   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 318  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 319  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 320  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 321  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 322  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 323  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 324  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 325  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 326  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 327  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 328  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 329  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 330  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 331  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 332  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 333  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 334  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 335  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 336  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 337  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 338  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 339  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 340  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 341  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 342  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 343  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 344  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 345  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 346  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 347  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 348  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 349  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 350  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 351  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 352  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 353  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 354  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 355  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 356  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 357  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 358  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 359  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 360  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 361  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 362  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 363  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 364  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 365  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 366  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 367  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 368  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 369  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 370  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 371  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 372  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 373  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 374  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 375  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 376  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 377  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 378  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 379  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 380  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 381  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 382  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 383  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 384  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 385  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 386  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 387  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 388  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 389  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 390  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 391  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 392  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 393  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 394  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 395  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 396  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 397  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 398  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 399  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 400  | 154  | 154 | Abey    | 154   | 1.03    | 1.8 |

## BREWERIES

| 1992 | High | Low | Company | Price | Net Yld | P/E |
|------|------|-----|---------|-------|---------|-----|
| 71   | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 72   | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 73   | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 74   | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 75   | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 76   | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 77   | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 78   | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 79   | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 80   | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 81   | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 82   | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 83   | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 84   | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 85   | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 86   | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 87   | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 88   | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 89   | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 90   | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 91   | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 92   | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 93   | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 94   | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 95   | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 96   | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 97   | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 98   | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 99   | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 100  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 101  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 102  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 103  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 104  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 105  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 106  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 107  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 108  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 109  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
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| 112  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 113  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
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| 115  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
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| 121  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 122  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 123  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 124  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
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| 127  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 128  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
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| 130  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 131  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 132  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 133  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 134  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 135  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 136  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 137  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
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| 139  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 140  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 141  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 142  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 143  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 144  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 145  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 146  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 147  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 148  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 149  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |
| 150  | 50   | 50  | Abey    | 50    | 1.03    | 1.8 |

## BUILDING, ROADS

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[illegible]







FRIDAY JULY 3 1992

# INFOTECH TIMES

## Out and about means a discount

Cheaper mobile phones are to be introduced to attract the home user, Matthew May writes

Ofel's announcement last week that it is to investigate the mobile telephone operators Cellnet and Vodafone for alleged anti-competitive practices and abuse of monopoly power is ironically happening just as both are preparing to introduce cheaper services.

Ofel, the government's telecommunications watchdog, is considering complaints by Talkland International, one of the service providers that buy airtime from the two cellular operators and sell it on to the public. Talkland claims that Cellnet and Vodafone give unfair preference to their own service-providing subsidiaries, and many critics are annoyed that the two networks are supposed to be competing but have had identical charges since their inception.

Now that is about to change as both are preparing cheaper, or at least different, services, spurred by the emergence of two competitors that promise to start networks next year at half the price, using newly established personal communications networks, or PCNs.

Next month Cellnet will announce how much it intends to charge users of a new service called Liberty, due to start before Christmas. Liberty will be aimed at would-be customers who balk at the high fixed subscription charges of £350 a year.

There is a huge potential demand for mobile telephones, says Stafford Taylor, Cellnet's managing director. "Our research indicates that up to ten million people are seriously interested, with a million simply waiting for the right price."

Although competition looms and there is plenty of spare capacity on the networks, the cellular operators' generosity will be limited by the need to introduce a "cheaper" service that will not cause the mass defection of the

business people who pay high subscriptions and make up most of their customer base.

This business emphasis also means the prices quoted by operators invariably exclude VAT. All prices mentioned here include VAT.

Callers signing up for Liberty will be exempt from the existing £59 connection fee and will be asked to pay a subscription of about £15 a month, not the present £29.

Call charges, however, are expected to be nearly double. The peak rate will be 59p a minute, compared with 29p, or 39p, depending on whether you are calling inside or outside an area bounded by the M25. The off-peak rate will be 23p, against 12p.

In addition, because of the reduced subscription charges Liberty users will have to pay real prices for their telephones, about £250 to £300.

Service providers often sell telephones at an average of £100 below cost at present, subsidising them with some of the money from the portion of the subscription charges they receive.

The result, according to early estimates, is that for those spending more than £500 a year for their service there will be no point in switching to Liberty. Even in these recessionary times that could still include many of Cellnet's 560,000 customers.

Those contemplating a mobile telephone for the first time should note that peak time has a liberal definition. For Vodafone it is 7.30am to 9.30pm, while for Cellnet it is 8am to 10pm, and both define Saturday as a peak day.

Some of the service providers, which are allowed to vary the basic terms and charge more, have even lengthened peak time charges to midnight. Cellnet may, however, bring the off-peak time forward to 6pm for Liberty users.

To emphasise that the new service is aimed at residential



Will lower subscription charges but higher prices for calls put a phone in more pockets?

users rather than business people, mobile telephones will be sold through the high street and will come with an invitation to sign up directly with a new service provider — part of the Cellnet Group — competition that some independent service providers dislike.

The principle behind Liberty, that thousands will be willing to pay heavily for calls if the monthly subscription is less, has already been tried by the service provider Ford Cellular Systems, of Swindon,

Wiltshire. Ford's present two schemes, available until the end of September, offer either a subscription of £11.75 a month with all calls at 82p a minute, or £17.62 a month with calls at 46p a minute. The connection fee is £59, telephones start at £175 and the contract lasts for a year.

The cheaper subscription is economic for those making fewer than 15 minutes of calls a month, Ford says, and is aimed particularly at those who need a mobile telephone

only in an emergency. This compares well with the AA Callsafe system, which provides a mobile telephone, which can call only the AA or the emergency services and costs about the same.

Vodafone is also preparing a new service based on what it calls an MCN, or micro-cellular network, that it will start on a limited scale next year. Vodafone argues that customers are not concerned about subscription charges as much as the cost of calls, so it

intends to keep the monthly subscription high, at £23.50, but provide local calls at 12p a minute and long-distance ones at 23p.

Cellnet and Vodafone say their new PCN competitors — Mercury Personal Communications and Microtel, bought by Hutchison Telecom a year ago — will not be able to offer much of a service until at least 1994. Many analysts agree with them.

However, both companies also admit that when PCNs arrive they will have to offer similarly priced services. Cellnet and Vodafone will be able to adjust their new services quickly to match new competitors while perhaps trying to retain customers on the existing networks by offering a "club class" service.

Elsewhere in the world there are trials that assume that mobile telephones will soon be cheap enough for widespread use. Last month the Ameritech Corporation began handing out pocket-sized folding telephones to 1,000 people in the Chicago area as part of an 18-month test of a "personal communications service", predicting that within a few years they could cost less than \$100 (£55).

This is not a free trial, however. All those involved in planning new mobile telephone services are desperate to know what number of people will sign up, at what price.

Ameritech will try out a wide range of call charges on its guinea pigs to see how use is affected. Unlike all the new services planned for Britain, however, there will be no monthly subscription charge. "We want to see whether the marketplace is ready," says Steve Ford, Ameritech's spokesman. "People want portability but they want it to be economical."

When mobile telephones become cheap enough for mass use the plan is that one number will replace those for the home, office and car. The futurists say the idea of calling a place where somebody might be would become a quaint anachronism.

### ON LINE

## Degree for a hero

WHEN the Michelangelo computer virus threatened to wreak havoc on computers around the world in March, Robbie Riter was used by an upstate New York company as a consultant to head off serious damage to its stored data if the virus lived up to its reputation. "They called me about 11pm and said they did not even know about the virus until 10pm," Robbie said, "so I had to rush down there."

Actually, he had to be driven down there, because he is only 11 years old. However, Robbie was up to the challenge, having used and loved computers since he was three, when his mother succumbed to his pestering and bought him a Commodore. Aged four, he had read the manual and was teaching himself how to program it.

Last week Robbie became the youngest person ever to graduate from Regents College, which helps "non-traditional" students, mainly adults with work and family responsibilities, to finish their degrees.

## Greener IBM

IBM says it has eliminated ozone-depleting chemical emissions from a California disc-drive plant that had the highest amount of such releases from an American factory five years ago. IBM has now turned off its last cleaner using chlorofluorocarbons at the plant in San Jose where the disc drive was invented.

IBM released the design of an alternative water-based cleaning system in 1990 and has pledged to halt all CFC emissions in its worldwide manufacturing operations by the end of next year.

Other high-tech companies have also been scrambling to eliminate CFCs, including chip maker Intel, Digital Equipment, AT&T and Hewlett-Packard.

## United front

AMERICAN and South Korean semiconductor makers have agreed to join forces for

an eventual international division of work to cope with Japanese competitors. A high-powered private delegation from the Korea Semiconductor Industry Association visited the United States for talks with their American counterparts last month to seek ways of co-operating.

Other industry sources said the eventual goal of the alliance would be the international division of work between the two countries in production, technology, manpower, financing and marketing. The United States has an advantage in technology, while South Korea is more competitive in production. South Korea's exports of semiconductor products amounted to \$3 billion in 1991, 80 per cent of which was absorbed by the United States.

## Wake up, sir

CORPORATE workhorses could find help from a new Japanese anti-dozing device when they are having trouble staying awake, especially if hung over after a heavy drinking session.

The £75 "Anti-Nap-Man", which is due to hit the Japanese market this month, consists of a sophisticated sensor contained in a ring worn on the index finger and connected to a buzzer worn on the wrist like a watch. If the wearer does not move his finger for a while, a rude 105-decibel alarm will shock him from his slumbers.

The device is aimed mainly at security guards, drivers and other round-the-clock workers. Rail companies spend large sums every year finding new ways to keep train drivers awake, such as music, special seats and stimulating fragrances piped through the air-conditioning.

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## United front

AMERICAN and South Korean semiconductor makers have agreed to join forces for

## They're playing the green card

Screens that work to tough Swedish rules are on offer, but at a premium

An advertisement that features Mayan temples and tropical beaches has started and puzzled television viewers. The scenes seem to have little to do with the personal computers that the company, ICL, is promoting. Some viewers may think these new mass-marketing methods are a result of Japanese influence, since ICL's takeover by Fujitsu two years ago, and to some extent they are right.

ICL has been rather cocky since the Fujitsu deal as it has made money while nearly all its European rivals, and many American ones, have lost.

The company also acquired Nokia Data, the Finnish terminal and PC manufacturer. The new range of PCs being promoted so cautiously are designed by Nokia and will, ICL hopes, make it the leading PC seller in Europe.

Though a common refrain from computer companies, this sounds, in ICL's case, particularly over-ambitious. Since entering the PC market in 1988, ICL has kept a low profile, selling PCs mostly to the big companies that already use its mainframe computer products.

This strategy has, however, been surprisingly successful, gaining ICL fourth place in the British market after IBM, Compaq and Apple, according to a recent survey by the research firm Romtec. The company is at the moment only eighth in Europe.

The advertising campaign is therefore intended to tell an unsuspecting world that ICL makes PCs.

Already, the company says it has received two requests to



Caution: Hans Malmkvist argues that the old standards are inadequate for today

tender for thousands of PCs from companies that said they had never realised ICL was serious about PCs.

The new range, or "92 PC Collection" as ICL would have it, is intended for corporate use, with heavy emphasis on "teamware", software for working on a local area network or linked to a mainframe.

The range will be sold through dealers, and "Catalogue" — a mail-order operation that follows other companies that have been successful with direct selling.

The main impetus behind them is what could accurately be described as playing the Scandinavian green card. In

the 1970s, the Swedes became concerned about the level of absenteeism in data-entry departments, where operators sit at terminals all day long. There was a worrying lack of productivity.

Research was done on the possible effects of screen radiation on pregnant operators, as well as many other difficulties arising from un-ergonomically designed workstations, including damage to backs, shoulders, wrists and necks and, of course, eye conditions.

The result is that Sweden has Europe's toughest recommendations on the use of computer screens, setting the standards for flicker, luminance, contrast, sharpness and reflection.

Nokia Data, which had previously been part of the Swedish company Saab and then LM Ericsson, had always designed products around these criteria.

ICL now hopes to convince British businesses that the high Swedish standards are worth the 20 per cent premium. The company argues that ergonomics is about productivity as well as health.

Despite a current directive, the minimum European Community standards for working with computer screens are unlikely to match the strictness of the Swedish recommendations.

There could be a sting in the tail, however, if standards are set too low either by the EC rulings or in the British legislation that will be introduced to meet the requirements of the directive.

In that case, argue ICL and other companies promoting the ergonomic factors of their equipment, employers could face heavy damages claims for repetitive strain injuries and other disorders related to work with screens.

"Today's standards reflect the past, and could prove too low for new types of computer use," argues Hans Malmkvist, the manager of ICL's ergonomics programme.

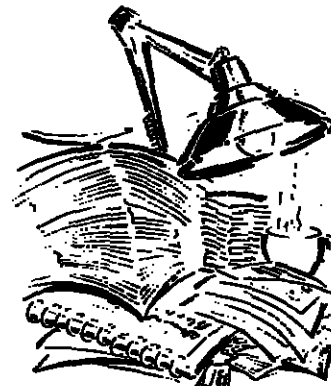
"Video clips in multimedia applications, for example, will create new demands on screen displays."

RICHARD SARSON

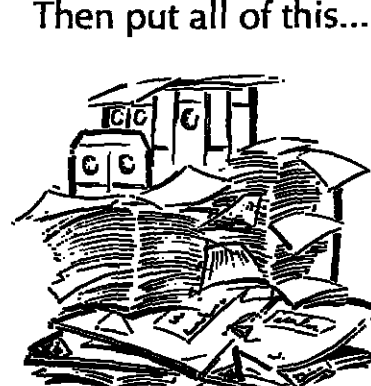
Infotech Software, pages 28-31

## Want to Improve Your Business' Efficiency?

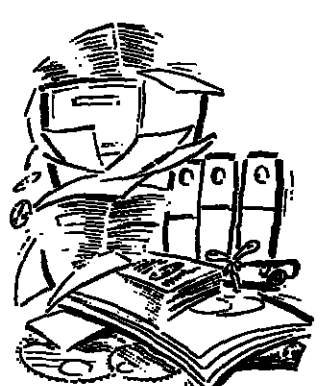
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## Compaq: Why pay more?

With their biggest ever product launch, Compaq switched from premium to low-cost computer manufacturer. Five new models include clone-terminating ProLinx 386x from £550. Performance, quality and that certain Compaq je ne c'est quoi still feature.

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# Programming for change

Getting up to date is no soft option, reports Jane Bird

In ten years' time, we will look back at the software in use today and laugh — it will seem as old-fashioned, cumbersome and unreliable as vintage cars do now. So argues Peter Lines, the managing director of Input Europe, a consultancy that specialises in software. "Today's software," he says, "will seem like part of a bygone age, just as early cars appear to be modelled on horse-carriages."

During the past few years the performance of computer hardware has advanced at a rate of between 25 and 40 per cent a year. Users have more computer power than they know what to do with, and are cutting back — European hardware spending in 1990 fell from £35 billion to £32 billion last year.

Software costs, however, are soaring. Computer manufacturers that once gave away programs with their machines, are increasingly turning to software to make up for lost revenues. Last year, European companies spent £5 billion on applications software — the programs that make computers perform useful tasks, which is ten times what they spent a decade earlier.

There is no sign of a slowdown. In 1981 applications software accounted for less than 2 per cent of information technology (IT) budgets and it is forecast to double within four years to 8 per cent. Software is clearly emerging as a big item on the IT shopping list.

Applications programs first became widespread in the mid-1970s for administrative tasks such as payroll and accounts, achieving instant productivity gains. Further efficiency improvements were made from 1975 to 1985, when software was applied to operational tasks such as warehousing, point-of-sale and factory planning systems.

The problem came with the move towards office systems. "Staff are staring at desktop PCs that are far too difficult to operate," Mr Lines says. Productivity gains have proved elusive.

The biggest software innovation in the past few years has been the graphical user inter-



Future software will compare to today's programs as cars do to horse-carriages, says Peter Lines, a consultancy chief

face, with its on-screen icons and mouse pointing device. This has helped make systems much more intuitive: instead of typing in a code to delete a file, a user simply drags it into the electronically displayed rubbish bin. But it does nothing to help speed the development of new applications.

For companies keen to make better use of their existing machines, the easiest solution is to buy a ready-made software package. This is the cheapest and quickest approach for the 90 per cent of activities that are not key to your competitive edge.

As Mr Lines puts it, "There is no point in reinventing the wheel. For tasks such as payroll and accounts, there is almost always an application on the shelf."

Even if it means changing your procedures a little, such is the cost of software development that it is almost always worth adapting to fit the package.

But for the 100 per cent of the business that gives a company its leading edge, it may be worth developing in-

dependent software. This might be management information, engineering design or customer services.

There are a number of tools to facilitate software development. Fourth generation languages (4GLs) make it easier for system builders to specify their requirements, and CASE tools help them develop software on time and under control.

The latest technique is object-oriented programming. Though still in its infancy, object-orientation should do much to speed up the development of complex applications, says David Flint, managing associate at CSC Index, an IT consultancy. It works by dividing systems into a number of independent components that can be pieced together to build a total application.

"It differs from conventional modular programming in that the components are very small," says Mr Flint, who has seen the method speed up projects, and cut error rates, 14-fold.

"Whereas 4GLs are good at

relatively straightforward problems, object-orientation excels at complexity. The more convoluted the problem, the more advantage it provides."

So far it has been largely confined to data management, statistical analysis, and graphical user interfaces, but in future, more general business applications are likely, such as warehousing, ledgers or customers accounts.

The jury is still out on object-orientation, Mr Lines says. "Software typically takes 15 years to move out of the lab and develop the robustness needed for widespread use. There is enormous inertia on the part of users to increasing their investment and add layers of icing and marzipan on the cake."

For example, so-called relational databases have offered users far more power than conventional systems for a number of years, yet they still account for only 7 per cent of databases.

For real gains to be made you have to change the way

your business is run. Mr Lines says: "It is no use just throwing software at existing structures and processes. You might give someone a spreadsheet that enables them to accomplish their work in an hour's less time. What do you do then? Pay them less? It may be that they get on the phone and talk to their friends for an hour, in which case your costs increase."

The biggest current role for software in business re-engineering is linking staff in electronic teams to share data. With portable computers they can even collaborate from home, or remote office on the move, with a data cellular link.

The growing importance of software has created a new generation of industry super-giants led by Microsoft, which threatens to wield similar market dominance with its operating systems that IBM once exercised with its blue boxes. But this power is likely to be gradually undermined by the trend towards open systems and the ability to mix and match software under any operating system.

## Afterthought that should come first

Take care in equipping your PC, or you might come to hate it

When buying a computer system you might spend weeks or even months choosing the right machine by reading magazine reviews, discussing the options with colleagues and examining specifications.

The software is often almost an afterthought — perhaps the dealer will throw it in as a cheap extra.

However, because it is ultimately the software, not the hardware, with which you work, you should be prepared to spend just as long on selecting the best database or spreadsheet as you would on selecting, say, the best "386 PC".

At first sight, choosing between what can be hundreds of packages doing similar tasks can seem impossible. Three valuable criteria for spotting good software are performance, usability and connectivity. In other words, does the program being considered do all that you want, will you have to fight it to make it do what you want and will it fit in with the rest of your system?

Your first question should be: what's in the box? There should be a clear getting-started guide that introduces the basics in a few pages without the need for you to attend a tutorial session first.

The main manual should have a logically arranged reference section, laid out according to topics because alphabetically arranged manuals can be difficult to use.

Your first practical step will be to install the program, which can be a nightmare. Some programs ask you to make directories and transfer files manually; worse, they require you to get your hands dirty by fiddling with important hard disc files.

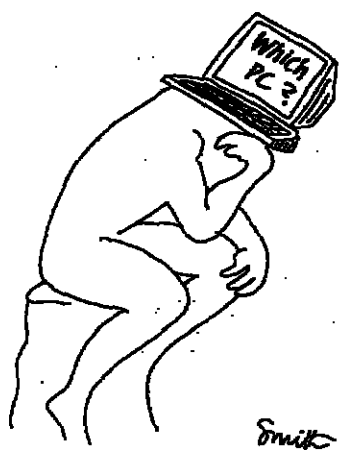
Any package should include a simple installer program which does all this for you. If the installation process looks complicated, make your dealer do it.

A good program works in a safe and obvious way, with simple and obvious commands, logically laid-out menus and an easily understood screen display. Choose a program that makes you feel in control. A program that is so complicated that you have to work with the manual open beside you is a program that may one day

trap you into making an expensive and irrecoverable mistake.

Assessing performance can be tricky. Regardless of what the program seems on paper to be able to do, in practice its performance may be less than ideal. If you can, try it with long-winded tasks such as sorting a large database, displaying complex graphical pages, or performing involved calculations. Some programs will slow down significantly under these conditions.

You can be easily seduced by the advanced functions that some software offers — a word processor that can adjust text to within 0.001in, when all you use it for is typing letters.



Similarly, though, it is a cardinal error to buy an application that is underpowered just because it seems simple and easy to use. So make sure there are adequate commands for advanced work that you may want to do one day.

Nowadays, being able to connect software easily to the outside world can be essential. For example, you will need a "network aware" database program if you want to run a company database; otherwise your colleagues will be locked out of using it whenever you are looking up something.

And any good program should be able to feed files that have been prepared using other programs, because it must be able to work alongside

the other software that you own. You may need to transfer information in bulk from, say, a spreadsheet to a database, and the best way is via compatible files.

You should be seeking a word processor that has a graphical screen display, able to show your document exactly as it will print out, a powerful search and replace function, limited desktop publishing functions and the ability to cope with graphics.

Assessing a spreadsheet program is straightforward: just compare it with the industry standard, Lotus 1-2-3. Make sure it can handle Lotus data files, and that setting up, rearranging and checking large spreadsheets is easy.

Of all the leading types of software, a good database is perhaps the hardest to spot. The more powerful ones are relational, offering the ability to inter-relate data in complex ways but making heavy computing demands — dBase is probably the best known — while a simpler file manager type of program will run best on a smaller system.

Ask questions. Can the screen display be modified to make the records easy to read? Can you set up a separate data entry screen? How many records will you be performing calculations on the data? Will you want to use the program over a network?

Does the program need to look up information from several database files? This way, whether the program you choose is relational or flat-file it will be one that suits the way you work.

Do not be tempted to borrow the program for "evaluation" unless you genuinely intend to buy a copy of your own. Piracy is a false economy, especially if the livelihood of your company depends on the software.

Once you have bought your program, allow yourself five minutes or so to fill in the product registration card. Curiously, only a third of users, despite having spent from £100 to £500 on a program, bother to return the postcard that entitles them to free technical support.

KIM WILSON

Kim Wilson is the author of *The New Users Mac Book*, just published by Sigma Press at £12.95.



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## A new quest for greater variety

Users want 'shrink wrapped' PC power

The software industry is facing the challenge of repeating what it did with the IBM PC, as the PC begins to slide into obsolescence. As desktop computers become available with the power of supercomputers, and new types of computer such as huge parallel systems and neural networks begin to build market share, users are already demanding the great variety and cheapness of the "shrink wrapped" software available for the PC.

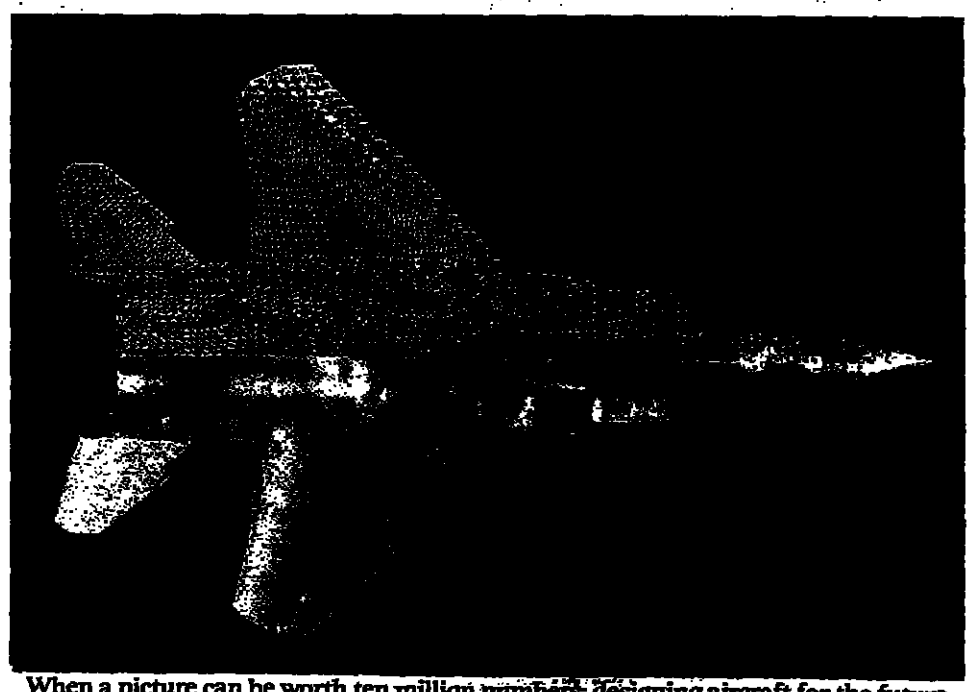
Reflecting a widely held view, Chris Martin, of Digital Equipment, which sells software development products, says: "I believe that another breakthrough is required to see the way forward."

"For example, there was a lot of excitement about computer-aided software engineering but many customers have been disappointed. It is a bit like artificial intelligence about five years ago, which was supposed to solve everyone's problems."

But hardware is developing so fast on such a wide front it is difficult to tell how the software to run on it should develop. Although there are many ways in which hardware design could go, there are only two main demands from users: software should be easily transferred from computer to computer and should be available in cheap packages, with as little need to adapt them to individual needs as possible.

This basically means open systems and shrink wrapped software. The IBM PC brought both of these concepts to the fore. Having been shown the explosive growth that can occur if software is independent of hardware, the open systems movement is gathering pace in workstation and mainframe markets. And the high cost of bespoke software has increased interest in shrink wrapped software packages for bigger systems using the Unix system.

The cost of building your own software is also the driving force behind what is called



When a picture can be worth ten million numbers: designing aircraft for the future

"object-oriented" programming, according to Mr Martin.

Object-oriented programming, which is already being abbreviated to OO, breaks the classical, one-piece program up into modules that have one specific object in life, such as communication, generating visuals and a mathematical process.

This is already a feature of many software development suites, but what makes OO different is that they communicate with each other in standard ways, agreed by international committees, so that an OO module from one software developer should interlock with modules from other suppliers to make an instant working program.

"OO is a set of software parts bins," Mr Martin says. "In the same way that a car maker can build a new model from standard parts, you choose components from the bins to build software quickly."

So far, OO has not made significant inroads into commercial computing, because it is still not simple enough for anybody to use without training.

The most enthusiastic users have been in the scientific community because academics not only have the capability to develop their own software, they cannot usually afford to have complex programs spe-

cially written, and anyway, they enjoy it.

One of the most interesting OO applications has been produced for scientists by IBM, although it is not compliant with the international standards now being developed, known rather charmingly as OOPS, for object-oriented power systems. Called the power-visualisation system, it is designed to transform reams of measurements into simple diagrams that people can understand, on the principle that a picture is worth ten million numbers in rows on computer paper.

Paul Riley, a research scientist at IBM's scientific centre at Winchester, knows how useful that can be from experience — he trained as an archaeologist. A site survey can involve thousands of readings. Generating a coherent image of the remains from them can be an almost impossible task for the human mind.

Power visualisation enables pictures to be built up from the data in a matter of minutes, in colour, and to be rotated, turned inside out or manipulated in whatever way the user wants to get a better insight.

To get the machine to perform these complex manipulations could in the past have meant months of programming. Now, all the user needs to do is bring up on the screen a flow chart of the modules in

use, bring in any new ones needed and fit them together in much the same way as Lego bricks. The machine checks that the interfaces of the modules are all connected correctly, and the program is ready to run.

One use of the system is to allow car makers to visualise what a new model will look like. Mr Riley says that Honda, a big user of the IBM system, can generate in three to four hours a video of the proposed design, which would have taken days or even weeks of processing time using conventional processors.

The strong open-systems element in OO will be reflected in other emerging areas in software, according to Andrew Rutter, senior manager at software house Hoskyns. "Now that people are moving to distributed companies, with serious processors all over the place, we need distributed knowledge of how to hang things together," he says.

The challenge for software is to cope with keeping information clean and up to date in a system that has caches of data everywhere, in different formats and for different purposes.

Object-oriented techniques are likely to assist here as well, Mr Rutter says, but the problems will be immense.

CHRIS PARTRIDGE



that  
first

# The new OS/2 can do just about anything. And all at the same time.



The first point to understand about IBM's new OS/2 is that it is a completely new kind of animal. It's nothing like DOS or any DOS extender, such as Windows.\*

It has been developed to bridge the gap between the present and the future.

It protects your existing software investment. Yet it's capable of running many thousands of applications, no matter whether they were originally written for DOS, Windows or OS/2. (Indeed it will run DOS or Windows applications, without necessarily having either installed.)

Better still it allows silky smooth multi-tasking. Instead of moving leadenly from one operation to another, documents can be printed, spreadsheets calculated and communications maintained. So while you concentrate on one application, the rest keep running in the background.

Multi-tasking with OS/2 2.0 means you can have lots of DOS, Windows and OS/2 applications, all of them working at the same time.

Other benefits are that a PC user on a LAN can run 'mission critical' applications and still communicate with other systems within the network.

Information can be dynamically linked in 'real-time' from multiple application sources. And it allows a relational, security-tight database to be developed and maintained within the LAN.

Nor has IBM overlooked the obvious danger of keeping so many balls in the air at once. The new OS/2 is virtually crash proof.

If one application goes down, the whole system won't follow. All you need do is re-boot the one application.

For more information about the most powerful operating system for your PC, please complete the

coupon below, and send it to Oliver Simms at the National Response Centre. Or call him on 081-995 7700 during office hours.

**IBM**

Please send me more information on OS/2. 011

Name

Position

Company

Address

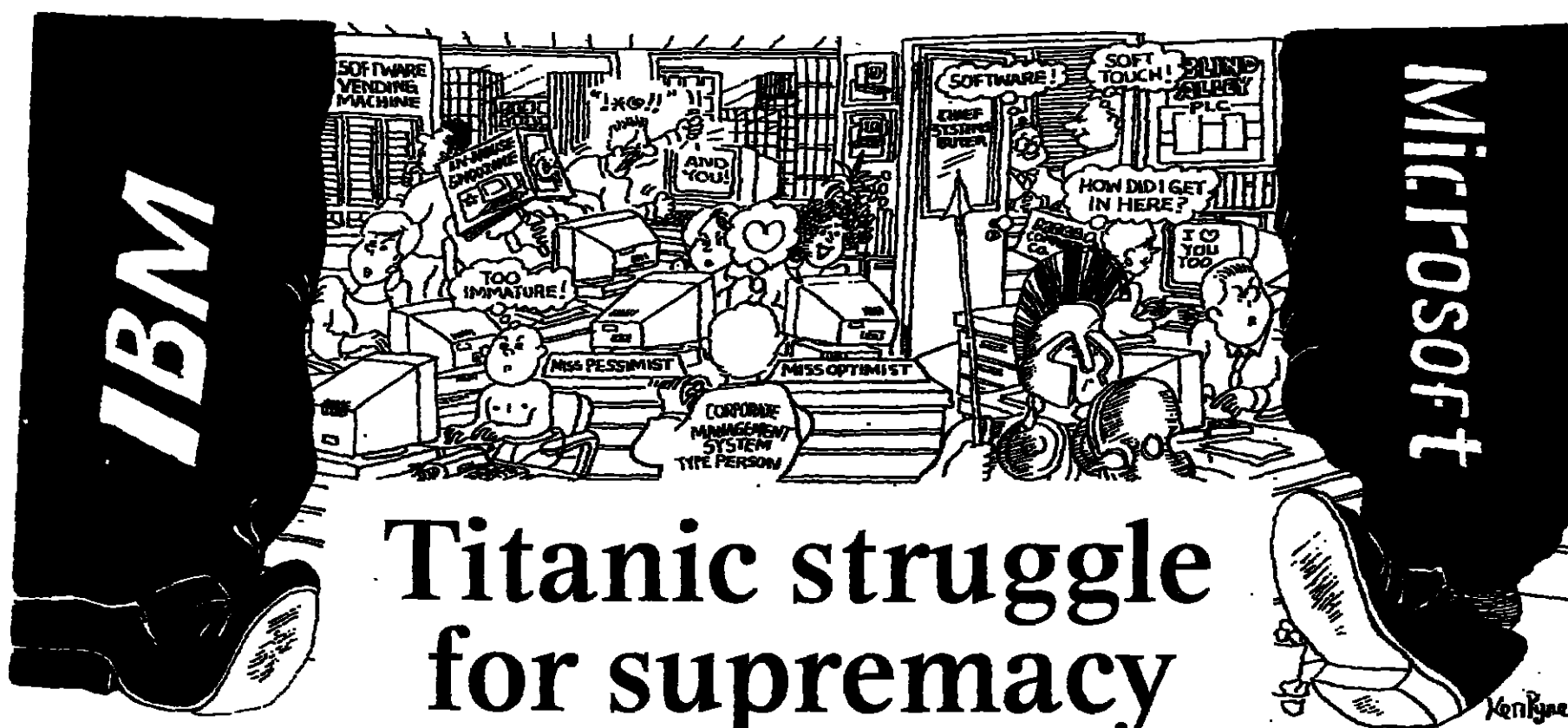
Postcode  Telephone

How many people are employed by your company at this address?

To: Oliver Simms, National Response Centre,  
IBM United Kingdom Limited,  
FREEPOST, 389 Chiswick High Rd, London W4 4AL.

\*Windows is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corporation.





## Titanic struggle for supremacy

As battle is joined for the hearts of personal computer users, the protagonists find themselves rallying supporters, many of whom have a foot in each camp. David Guest reports from the sidelines

At issue is much of the style and substance of personal computing. When a PC is switched on, the screen and the services presented to the user are determined by the core operating code.

The style has been set by Apple's Macintosh, where the cryptic commands of conventional computing are replaced by graphics in the form of diagrammatic guidelines. This is what is known as a graphical user interface (GUI), and it has become a battleground.

The two main protagonists are the former partners, IBM and Microsoft. As with any other epic struggle, each has sought to rally supporters — in this case the software community — to its flag. Unlike most other epic struggles, the supporters are often the same on both sides.

Any program producer eager to preserve a share in the PC market has to place each-way bets on the contenders. The issue is complicated by the fact that it is not a two-horse race. Apple's Macintosh is another force to be reckoned with, and from further up the scale there are other options, while among the unknown quantities are a joint

development between IBM and Apple, known as Taligent, and possibly Apple founder Steve Jobs's Nextstep operating system, on which IBM has a licence option.

Lotus sums the problem up in the spring issue of its in-house magazine. "An optimist might say that the user will end up with choice," says the leading program maker.

### One big group has dismissed the offering of its rival as 'immature'

"The pessimist will point out that although users might be able to pick and choose operating systems, the breadth of applications software is bound to suffer. Moreover, support will become a bigger nightmare than it already is."

Lotus is one of those companies committed to what is known as "cross-platform support", which is to say that it aims to provide versions of its programs for all the alternative styles. It acknowledges

that this is expensive, with possibly little return on investment in some directions.

Microsoft now has the edge in weight of numbers — 12.2 million copies of its Windows software in use, compared with 1.2 million for IBM's rival OS/2. Drawing on market research from the United States-based IDC, it notes that 6,500 programs are available for Windows, as against 300 for OS/2.

The most recent product upgrades from both companies point to an improvement in the ratio for IBM; it claims 70,000 shipments of the second version of OS/2 since its launch in April, while Microsoft says it has sold 2.2 million copies of Windows 3.1 over the same period.

The conclusion that Lotus reaches is a thumbs down for Microsoft. "What is becoming clear is that software vendors that devote all of their applications development to the Windows environment will increasingly find themselves locked out of long-term corporate IT strategies," Lotus says.

Microsoft acknowledges this criticism but argues that, within a matter of months, it will no longer be valid. David Smith, Microsoft UK's system marketing manager,

says that IBM's promotion of OS/2 version 2 focuses on the technical aspects of the operating system, especially its resilience in being able to control more than one computing task simultaneously.

"That kind of thing appeals to the corporate management information systems people," he says. "Windows NT will fit there — it will

### One wrong move, and a company could find itself in a blind alley

deliver everything the corporate MIS department wants, without compromise."

Microsoft promises Windows NT (New Technology) by the end of this year. By that time, it hopes to be able to offer the Windows-style facade for use on widely differing computer architectures, from portable PCs to powerful workstations.

The company dismisses IBM's offering as "immature". Mr Smith claims: "It is low on printer and

screen support, and it needs at least 8 megabytes of memory to work properly. They are seven years behind us in terms of development of the product."

IBM prefers to concentrate on the technical qualities of OS/2 now available to a wider group of PC users. It claims that by the year's end, programs specific to OS/2 version 2 will have been produced by more than 1,000 software developers.

The way people are expected to use computers deserves more attention, says Dermot Browne of the consultancy KMPG. "Fifty to 60 per cent of the code may go into the user interface, but nothing like that amount of time and care goes into the design."

He says developments such as Windows and the Macintosh and corporate style guides "are not prescriptive enough for individual applications or across suites of programs. With Windowing interfaces, there are many different ways of navigating an application and invoking commands, and so much more room for good and bad design."

The final irony of this contention between Microsoft, IBM and others is that the products in question are supposed to make PC programs easier to use. Their variety, however, makes the programs more difficult to buy. One wrong move, and a company could find itself in a blind alley.

## How to research a database buy

A good information source can improve the effectiveness of a business, but the potential for confusion is high

Argument has long raged about what a computer database, the computerised equivalent of a basic card index, is and what it really does. Despite advances made almost daily in the field of computer technology, the average business person is still confused by the claims and counter claims of many suppliers. Terms such as "relational" and "hierarchical" have been thrown around over the past couple of years without any proper explanation of what they mean, or the differences between the database products that bear these descriptions. Since most buyers are not familiar with the intricate world of database design and even less interested in finding out, the potential for confusion is high. Currently, many companies cannot use their computer systems to tap their vast store of knowledge

from each file and the user soon gets a feeling for which product best suits which customer. This so-called "relational" approach, is being used by many organisations to improve the way they operate.

For example, every time HM Customs and Excise seized illegal drugs at Heathrow airport, it took an average of two hours to complete the supporting paperwork. Inevitably, errors crept in.

Thanks to the introduction of new technology, details are now entered into a personal computer and transferred via a network to a database. When required, the information is sent back to the PC, assimilated into a forms document and printed at the officer's local printer.

"The system has improved the accuracy with which contraband can be securely and accurately tracked, providing the complete audit record which is now necessary for court evidence," Vic Whittington, head of the IT infrastructure division at HM

### Staying ahead of competition means tapping new sources of information

Customs and Excise, says. The National Audit Office (NAO) audits the biggest spender in the UK — the government. Last year, over £300 billion of taxpayers' money, or one third of the British economy, was spent or collected by the UK's 500 public sector bodies.

To improve efficiency, the NAO is spending £6 million over five years on a new IT strategy. At its heart is a resource management system, which plans and monitors the activities of all NAO staff and keeps track of cash.

British Sugar is spending £12 million on a new factory information technology system, replacing computer systems with new database software.

The first project module, the Beet Intake Control System, has just gone live and monitors the processing of 70,000 tonnes of sugar beet each day.

Clive Couldwell



## THE IMPACT ON YOUR BUSINESS

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Computer software developers want the EC to step up its actions to stamp out worsening illegal program copying. Sean Hallahan reports

Companies that develop computer software are calling on the European Community to be more stringent in its efforts to crack down on the illegal copying of computer programs.

Software piracy, they claim, now costs the computer industry in Europe more than £3 billion a year in lost revenues, approximately the size of the legitimate market.

If the trade in illegal software were stamped out the market would automatically double and 17,000 extra jobs would be created, according to campaigners against piracy.

Software piracy includes the unauthorised copying of a program purchased by a company or individual for use by a third party. One of the biggest problems the industry faces is that the copying is often carried out not for financial gain but because it is easier to copy someone else's program than to go through the long and tedious process of ordering one's own.

Although many leading corporations have issued strict edicts and guidelines covering illegal copying of software, including instant dismissal for perpetrators, the matter remains one of the main concerns for the software companies.

Two organisations exist to combat piracy: the UK-based Federation Against Software Theft (FAST) and the international Business Software Alliance (BSA).

Apart from individual or in-house company copying, there is a

## Pirates plundering £3bn a year

growing trade in deliberate cross border software counterfeiting on a mass scale for profit.

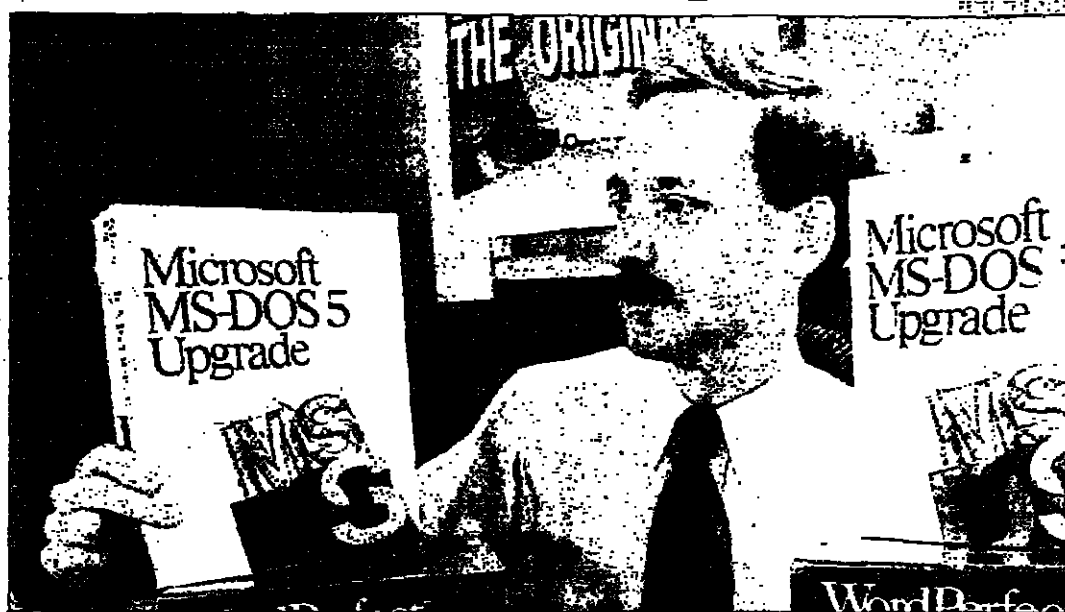
The BSA has joined forces with representatives of other industries that feel threatened by the copying of their work, including film and record companies, to call on the EC to tighten its 1986 regulations on the importation of counterfeiters.

The participants want customs officials empowered to seize and destroy any illegal imports that infringe intellectual property rights including copyrights, trademarks and patents.

BSA figures suggest that the UK and Ireland lost software companies £300 million worth of revenue in 1990, a steady if unspectacular rise over the previous two years. Heading the European piracy table, however, are said to be Germany and Austria at £600 million each and France with £400 million.

Bradford Smith, the BSA's consultant lawyer, admits that although counterfeiting software for illegal gain is a major problem the organisation spends more time tracking down the company pirates. But he argues that the copying in companies, unwitting or not, is still damaging.

"They are copying for profit because they are reducing their



Only experts can spot the difference: Bradford Smith compares real and counterfeit software packages

overall business expense," Mr Smith says. "The problem is where copying is carried out on a departmental level."

The IT department may even recommend standardising on a particular piece of software but the budgetary structure of the company may mean that it is purchased on a

departmental level," Mr Smith added.

It was the BSA and Fast that initiated the raid last year on the offices of Mirror Group Newspapers when 27 people representing seven software developers, among them Lotus Development, Microsoft and WordPerfect, found 800

copies of programs, more than 650 of which were believed to be illegal.

The case was settled in January when Mirror Group Newspapers agreed to buy replacement copies of all the copied software, compensate the software houses for the programs copied together with their legal fees and institute an audit

program to ensure compliance with copyright requirements in the future.

Although the responsibility for ensuring that employees do not illegally copy software lies with the employer, in practice policing the process is often impossible.

But the BSA argues that adherence to the software copyright law is the corporate responsibility of the company. The software developers themselves are taking a hand in this process, according to Mr Smith.

He adds: "The software houses are trying to devise solutions which make software protection commercially sensible. They are introducing network licences where the use of software is policed by the computer systems themselves."

Some software companies are so concerned about the problems of piracy in the European market that they have appointed a director specifically to handle the issue.

Lotus Development, the company that wrote the best selling PC spreadsheet product, 1-2-3, estimates that half of the programs are not being used legally and it has now appointed a European director of copyright protection.

The BSA has instituted an audit

program whereby, when informed of a possible infringement, it will enter a company's premises to check on the legal validity of its software. If illegal copies are discovered, the company will then be asked to pay the necessary compensation to the developers.

In return, the BSA will then undertake not to prosecute the culprit or to make the details of the infringement public.

There is no doubt that European software protection lags considerably behind that in the United States which lost only £1.2 billion in 1990 compared to Europe's £2.5 billion.

According to Mr Smith, the US recognised the dangers of software piracy and introduced legislation to curb it much earlier than in Europe. Mr Smith points out that the first European litigation against software pirates did not take place until 1989 and not until 1990 in the UK.

Last year the EC issued a directive tightening the rules governing software copyright, which must be implemented by all 12 members by January 1, 1993.

However, he does not believe this will solve the problem of piracy although he considers that it represents a step forward.

The penetration of personal computers, of which nearly 3.5 million are in use in the UK alone, the ease of copying software and the difficulties of discovering the culprits mean that software piracy is likely to remain a headache for software companies for many years.

## Enter the team with linked PCs

New programs have been devised for workgroup computing.

The typical company structure of the 1990s will probably feature flattened management hierarchies and mobile teams of versatile white-collar workers.

Those flattened middle managers who survive the cuts will find that they have more to manage. The white-collar professionals, moving from group to group and project to project, cannot be expected to carry everything around in their heads.

For this category of workers, the IT industry has already produced a supporting programme. Originally, the computer programs designed for use by groups were known as "groupware", but the pioneers of groupware have begun to shy away from this term and now prefer the more long-winded "workgroup computing". This means that where a PC might previously have improved the productivity of an individual, groups of people with interconnected PCs might now achieve productivity gains greater than the sum of the parts.

Since the productivity gains of individual PC users are still a matter of debate, the idea of increasing them in workgroup computing can be seen to require faith. Perhaps for this reason, workgroup computing has been slow to take off in the UK. "But I think we're getting there," argues Nigel Thomas, product marketing manager responsible at Lotus for a package called Notes. "One problem has been the difficulty of explaining the concept to people; you usually have to show it to them."

This product has always been difficult to explain: it is a kind of superstructure on which familiar programs can be assembled for use by teams. The company assists by giving away generic programs from a pool of 50 titles with each copy of Notes.

It also sponsors a City University Business School research study to promote the concept. In May this year, a team from Ivory & Syme, a Scottish fund management company, won £25,000 worth of consultancy and programs for creating the most creative and technically ambitious groupware application in competition with seven other organisations.

Ivory & Syme came up with an information system that took data from a variety of sources — electronic and paper reports — and made it available to analysts throughout the company. Until now, however, operators of networks in the UK have proved sceptical about the benefits of groupware. Two current trends might cause them to re-assess their position.

The first is the adaptation of familiar PC programs for team use. This is illustrated by the arrival in the UK of a US-based company called United

Information Technologies (UIT) with a product called the Spreadsheet Connector.

The spreadsheet is one of the most commonly used PC programs. Its cellular pattern has become a routine feature of many a PC user's work, whether it involves financial analysis or the row-and-column form of presentation to which the grid is suited.

"The spreadsheet was not designed for multiple users or for very large amounts of data," argues Chris Meisler, UIT's director of business development. "If you get into large numbers of people using them — in financial workgroups, say — you find large amounts of frustration. It can take long hours to get the numbers to tally, and you end up with highly paid analysts keying data from one spreadsheet to another."

UIT's product claims to turn the two best-selling spreadsheets, 1-2-3 and Excel, into groupware programs.

The second trend in the workgroup computing field is the concentration, on electronic mail. This means of transmitting messages, from one computer to another, is not new; it has been a widely unpopular feature of personal computing for a decade. But the convenience factor, previously overlooked, is coming to the fore.

Hitherto, to send or respond to an electronic mail message a user has had to stop the job in hand on the PC and go through the often obscure procedures of the mail system in a separate program.

This is the equivalent of walking to the nearest telephone box every time you need to make a call. Software suppliers have latterly recognised that it should be possible to perform this routine from within other programs, especially from within the word processing program in which the message is prepared.

Providing electronic mail as an automatic adjunct of other programs should immediately improve the prospects of team members communicating with each other. As ever in the computer industry, the value to users could be diluted by the suppliers' insistence on providing more than one way of doing the same thing.

Microsoft has demonstrated just such a messaging infrastructure and is hoping to attract software suppliers to adapt their programs to its "messaging applications programming interface". Lotus is promoting "vendor independent messaging" along with what it says are broader lines.

Groupware may be an underdeveloped area of IT, but it is going to command an increasing amount of attention, from the suppliers, at least.

DAVID GUEST

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26,000 gallons of the Dead Sea to evaporate.  
The brain to lose more than 500 cells.  
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FRIDAY JULY 3 1992

# Steerforth to end drought

STEERTHORTH can give Alec Stewart his fifth winner of the season and end a drought of nine weeks, since he last tasted victory in the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club Handicap at Sandown Park today.

Lighly raced, the four-year-old showed plenty of promise on his only outing this season when seventh behind Pay Homage over today's course and distance. Also running in that handicap was Marine Diver, beaten a length in second, when he meets on 8th better terms for a five-length beating.

Marine Diver upheld the form in fine style when successful next time out in a competitive handicap at Haydock.

But it was the performance that Steerforth put up at Newmarket last season, which suggests that he has the ability to take this extremely open handicap.

At Newmarket, he never

looked in danger of defeat when slamming Friedland and the useful Alisma. On that occasion they were both receiving considerable amounts of weight.

Today, the dangers are numerous. Chario, the favourite since bookmakers advertised prices last Sunday, has to be respected after his impressive five-length victory over Fire Top at Ascot. Fire Top has 2lb to find today.

Dermot Weld's decision to send over Lifesatch Vision, formerly trained here, commands respect. Despite his wetweight of nine stone 12lb, the five-year-old showed he is in excellent form after winning at Fairyhouse.

Last season, he also displayed outstanding form when third, beaten 3 1/2 lengths, by Rudimentary in a listed race.

Mick Channon, who land-

ed the Hong Kong Handicap last season, can strike with Marchwell Lad in the Wharf Dragon Stakes. At Goodwood, on his only outing to date, the colt comfortably beat his 16 opponents.

The form of that Goodwood race has worked out well, the fourth, Polar Storm, won her next race. Today, Joyfracing, a comfortable winner last time out

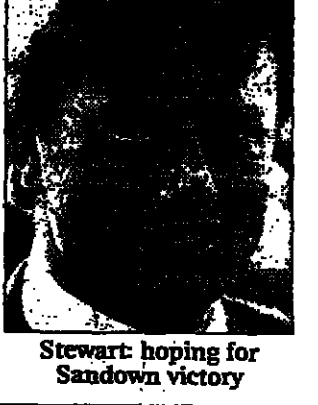
at Windsor, appears to be the biggest danger, but I feel the selection has scope for further improvement.

Trumpet is napped to return to form in the Year Of The Monkey Claiming Stakes. At Royal Ascot, the Queen's colt was far from disgraced when sixth behind Source Of Light in the King George V Handicap.

Prior to that he beat Mohana in a well-contested claimant at Newbury.

Michael Stoute, not renowned for runners in these events, is represented by Drought and Liford.

However, I sight Moor Lodge, an impressive winner of a handicap at Beverley on his penultimate outing, as the danger.



Stewart hoping for Sandown victory

## Arcangues attracts support

ARCANGUES, the only challenger from France, was backed to win tomorrow's Coral-Edipus Stakes at Sandown Park.

The Andre Fabre-trained colt, who will be ridden by Thierry Jarnet, finished a neck behind Zoman in the Prix d'Isphahan at Longchamp last month.

William Hill yesterday reduced Arcangues from 12-1 to 9-1 with Zoman, now almost certain to run. Coral shortened him to 10-1 (from 5-2 favourite with both firms).

The Irish-trained filly will stretch her legs at Sandown today. "It is just a routine exercise on the track not a gallop as some people having been billing," said Michael Kauntze. "Like she did before running at Ascot."

Nicholson moves, page 34

## BEVERLEY

MANDARIN  
6.45 Classic Stakes. 7.10 Big Pat. 7.35 Ajo. 8.05 Jota. 8.35 Futurballa. 9.05 Elegant Touch.

THUNDERER  
6.45 Classic Stakes. 7.10 Big Pat. 7.35 Wesam. 8.05 Jota. 8.35 Futurballa. 9.05 Who's Tel.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 6.45 Classic Stakes.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD PATCHES)  
DRAW: 5F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

6.45 BOOTHFERRY PARK MAIDEN  
(2-Y-O: 1m 110yds) (7 runners)  
1 ATLANTIC SUNSET 18 M W Eastern 9-0 K Darley 6  
2 DAME'S 18 M W Eastern 9-0 K Darley 6  
3 KINGSTON BRW 45 J Barry 9-0 J Carroll 1  
4 MAISONNETTE 18 M W Eastern 9-0 J Carroll 1  
5 SCORDED 18 M W Eastern 9-0 A Cathers 2  
6 HUNTER'S SUPREMACY 18 M W Eastern 9-0 A Cathers 2  
10-11 Classic Stakes. 1-1 Classic Stakes. 10-11 Kingston Brw, 10-11 Eastern 9-0.

7.10 POCKLINGTON SELLING HANDICAP  
(3-Y-O: 1m 110yds) (8 runners)  
1 BIG PAT 7 J Pearce 8-7 R Price 4  
2 GRUBBY 4 J Barry 8-7 R Price 4  
3 CUALTAL MEMORY 13 J Barry 8-7 R Price 4  
4 VITAL VOLTAGE 8 J Barry 8-7 R Price 4  
5 OISEL MARTIN 13 M W Eastern 9-0 J Carroll 1  
6 TENDER MONARCH 24 P Ewan 7-13 C Hawley 1  
7-8 Classic Stakes. 1-1 Vital Voltage. 8-1 Quinlan Memory. 1-1 Jester's Gem. 2-1 Tender Monarch.

7.35 WM JACKSON & SON HANDICAP  
(3-Y-O: 1m 110yds) (3 runners)  
1 WESAM 14 J Wain 9-7 W Carson 1  
2 AJO 20 M W Eastern 9-0 W Carson 1  
3 MIZORAM 25 J Wain 9-7 W Carson 1  
11-12 Classic Stakes. 7-1 Ajo. 9-1 Wain.

## 8.05 NORWOOD MEDIAN AUCTION

MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: 1m 110yds) (4 runners)  
1 KAJAM 11 P Cole 9-0 T Quinn 2  
2 KOTA 15 M W Eastern 9-0 J Carroll 1  
3 ARFEE 22 J Thompson 8-7 W Carson 3  
4 KALAF 18 P Cole 8-7 W Carson 3

## 8.35 JACKSONS CATERING STAKES

(2-Y-O: 1m 110yds) (3 runners)  
1 FUTURBALLA 21 J Durr 9-1 W Carson 2  
2 YORKSHIRE ROCK 28 M W Eastern 9-1 T Quinn 2  
3 RED CENT 1 Emenagh 8-4 T Quinn 2

## 9.05 CRAVEN PARK HANDICAP

(2-703 1m 110yds) (7 runners)  
1 ELEGANT TOUCH 10 M W Eastern 9-10 L Dutton 5  
2 WHO'S TEL 13 J Durr 9-1 S Maloney 5  
3 SPECTACULAR DAWN 13 J Durr 9-1 S Maloney 5  
4 TOUCH ABOVE 10 J Durr 9-1 S Maloney 5  
5 4800 STELY 21 J Durr 9-1 S Maloney 5  
6 6250 SMOKE 25 J Durr 9-1 S Maloney 5  
7 0084 RAPID LAD 4 J Durr 9-1 S Maloney 5

## COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: H Cecil 18 winners from 38 runners, 47.4%.  
A Scott, 6 from 17, 35.3%. P Cole, 7 from 21, 33.3%.  
J Thompson, 5 from 20, 25.0%. M Stoute, 13 from 50, 26.0%.  
Jester's Gem, 4 from 22, 18.2%.  
JOCKEYS: L Dutton, 9 winners from 27 rides, 33.3%.  
Jester's Gem, 8 from 22, 36.4%. R Price, 13 from 17, 76.5%.  
T Quinn, 10 from 16, 62.5%. K Darley, 12 from 14, 85.7%.  
Carson, 4 from 23, 17.4%.

Central City finished second in the Group Three Prix de Ris-Oranges over six furlongs at Evry yesterday. The Richard Hannon-trained filly was beaten a length and a half by Andre Fabre's Wedding Of The Sea. Amigo Menor, the other French challenger, finished eighth.

## 4.00 PROVIDENT MUTUAL HANDICAP

(2-233.3 1m 110yds) (12 runners)  
1 FIREFIGHTER 21 J Durr 9-1 S Maloney 5  
2 SPEED MOVEMENT 278 M W Eastern 9-10 L Dutton 5  
3 LIMP EXPRESS 28 J Wain 9-7 W Carson 1  
4 SUE AILEY 7 J Barry 8-7 R Price 4  
5 MISS HYDE 11 J Barry 8-7 R Price 4  
6 SUE AILEY 7 J Barry 8-7 R Price 4  
7 MAJOR RISK 38 J Barry 8-7 R Price 4  
8 SUE AILEY 7 J Barry 8-7 R Price 4  
9 SUE AILEY 7 J Barry 8-7 R Price 4  
10 SUE AILEY 7 J Barry 8-7 R Price 4  
11 SUE AILEY 7 J Barry 8-7 R Price 4  
12 SUE AILEY 7 J Barry 8-7 R Price 4

## 4.30 EBF SYCAMORE MAIDEN STAKES

(2-245.5 1m 110yds) (11 runners)  
1 BADENCO BURNER 109 M W Eastern 9-10 L Dutton 5  
2 BENZO 13 M W Eastern 9-10 L Dutton 5  
3 COMET WHIRLPOOL 8 M W Eastern 9-10 L Dutton 5  
4 PETERED OUT 11 B Barry 9-0 J Carroll 1  
5 DREAM A BIT 11 B Barry 9-0 J Carroll 1  
6 LA MADRUGAL 21 W Wain 9-7 W Carson 1  
7 LEADMEAD MAGIK 10 J Barry 8-7 R Price 4  
8 MISS WHITTINGHAM 1 J Barry 8-7 R Price 4  
9 MISS WHITTINGHAM 1 J Barry 8-7 R Price 4  
10 SUE AILEY 7 J Barry 8-7 R Price 4  
11 SUE AILEY 7 J Barry 8-7 R Price 4

## 5.00 POWERMAX MAIDEN STAKES

(Div 1: 22.67 7f) (8 runners)  
1 JUNE'S LEAF 49 J Barry 8-7 R Price 4  
2 MILTON ROOMS 58 J Barry 8-7 R Price 4  
3 NORTH FLY 13 J Barry 8-7 R Price 4  
4 OLD FOX 14 J Barry 8-7 R Price 4  
5 WHITTHILL 7 J Barry 8-7 R Price 4  
6 WHITTHILL 7 J Barry 8-7 R Price 4  
7 WHITTHILL 7 J Barry 8-7 R Price 4  
8 WHITTHILL 7 J Barry 8-7 R Price 4

## 5.30 ASH APPRENTICE HANDICAP

(2-167.5 7f) (8 runners)  
1 MAKE OR MAR 9 J Barry 8-7 R Price 4  
2 ANC LAMP 10 J Barry 8-7 R Price 4  
3 NORTH FLY 13 J Barry 8-7 R Price 4  
4 THE SHANAHAN 14 J Barry 8-7 R Price 4  
5 MISS BRIGHTSIDE 12 J Barry 8-7 R Price 4  
6 MISS BRIGHTSIDE 12 J Barry 8-7 R Price 4  
7 MISS BRIGHTSIDE 12 J Barry 8-7 R Price 4  
8 MISS BRIGHTSIDE 12 J Barry 8-7 R Price 4

## COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: C Nelson, 11 winners from 38 runners, 28.9%.  
Miss A. White, 3 from 10, 30.0%. B. Elson, 3 from 11, 27.3%.  
J. Barry, 23 from 115, 20.0%.  
JOCKEYS: Alex Green, 2 winners from 18 rides, 11.1%.  
T. Quinn, 5 from 14, 35.7%.  
J. Barry, 14 from 76, 18.4%.  
11.1% (Only qualifiers).

## YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Brighton  
Going: firm  
2.10 (1m 110yds) 1. WUFUD (W Carson) 10-11. 2. B. Barry 10-11. 3. B. Barry 10-11. 4. B. Barry 10-11. 5. B. Barry 10-11. 6. B. Barry 10-11. 7. B. Barry 10-11. 8. B. Barry 10-11. 9. B. Barry 10-11. 10. B. Barry 10-11. 11. B. Barry 10-11. 12. B. Barry 10-11. 13. B. Barry 10-11. 14. B. Barry 10-11. 15. B. Barry 10-11. 16. B. Barry 10-11. 17. B. Barry 10-11. 18. B. Barry 10-11. 19. B. Barry 10-11. 20. B. Barry 10-11. 21. B. Barry 10-11. 22. B. Barry 10-11. 23. B. Barry 10-11. 24. B. Barry 10-11. 25. B. Barry 10-11. 26. B. Barry 10-11. 27. B. Barry 10-11. 28. B. Barry 10-11. 29. B. Barry 10-11. 30. B. Barry 10-11. 31. B. Barry 10-11. 32. B. Barry 10-11. 33. B. Barry 10-11. 34. B. Barry 10-11. 35. B. Barry 10-11. 36. B. Barry 10-11. 37. B. Barry 10-11. 38. B. Barry 10-11. 39. B. Barry 10-11. 40. B. Barry 10-11. 41. B. Barry 10-11. 42. B. Barry 10-11. 43. B. Barry 10-11. 44. B. Barry 10-11. 45. B. Barry 10-11. 46. B. Barry 10-11. 47. B. Barry 10-11. 48. B. Barry 10-11. 49. B. Barry 10-11. 50. 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FRIDAY JULY 3 1992

## McEnroe and Agassi battle for place in final



McEnroe: survived crisis

By ANDREW LONGMORE  
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

THE last time three Americans reached the semi-finals of Wimbledon, John McEnroe was a mere 23 years old and Andre Agassi was still honing his service returns in his pre-teen days. Today, the pair, who have formed a firm and, some might say, dangerous liaison over the past six months, will cast aside their new found friendship and compete for a place in the final of the Wimbledon Championships.

Whoever wins — and Agassi, the younger by 11 years, is marginally the bookmaker's favourite — it is an unlikely and exhilarating tale, not least because, in their

different ways, they have disproved the theory that lawn tennis is a land peopled by giants with huge serves. Only Goran Ivanisevic, at 6ft 4in, matches that description, but, mercifully, predictability is not one of his vices, while the other three semi-finalists are 6ft or under, mere pygmies compared to last year when the smallest of the quartet was Stefan Edberg at 6ft 3in. This has to be good, though if Ivanisevic — who meets Sampras in the second semi-final today — flows to the title on a tide of aces, we might have to think again.

In destroying Boris Becker over two days with an astonishing succession of whiplash returns, Agassi revived a method of winning from the

back court many thought had passed with the retirement of Bjorn Borg. "I have not seen anyone on grass playing that kind of tennis," Becker said after his sixth straight defeat by the American.

McEnroe, who has been jogging a few memories of his own in the past 11 days, has already been reminded of another of his oldest rivals. "Jimmy Connors always returned my serve better than anyone, but Andre's taken over that mantle. He's probably the best returner in the game right now."

At roughly the time McEnroe was winning his third Wimbledon title in 1984, Agassi was standing on the baseline of the local courts in Las Vegas returning serves

| HEAD TO HEADS                    |                     |         |       |            |               |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------|-------|------------|---------------|
| Sampras and Ivanisevic tied, 2-2 |                     |         |       |            |               |
| Date                             | Tournament          | Surface | Round | Winner     | Score         |
| 1991                             | Long Island         | Hard    | QF    | Ivanisevic | 7-6, 6-3      |
| 1990                             | Grand Slam Cup      | Carpet  | QF    | Sampras    | 7-6, 6-7, 6-4 |
| 1991                             | Manchester          | Grass   | F     | Ivanisevic | 6-4, 6-4      |
| 1991                             | Paris Indoor        | Carpet  | R16   | Sampras    | 6-3, 6-7, 7-6 |
| McEnroe leads Agassi, 2-1        |                     |         |       |            |               |
| 1986                             | Volvo International | Hard    | QF    | McEnroe    | 6-3, 6-3      |
| 1988                             | Los Angeles Cal     | Hard    | 1F    | Agassi     | 6-4, 0-6, 6-4 |
| 1988                             | Buck WCT Finals     | Hard    | QF    | McEnroe    | 4-6, 3-0, Abn |

from his father, which were delivered from ten feet inside the baseline. The practice ensured the quickness of reflex which left Becker, the famed "Boom Boom" Becker of yore, a picture of stumbling incompetence again yesterday.

If Becker thought the magic might fly away from Agassi's racket overnight, his thinking proved as flawed as the statistics, which showed that the German had won his last nine five-set matches. Neither records nor Becker's formidable presence on centre court meant anything in the face of Agassi's murderous two-handed backhand returns.

Becker, 4-3 up in the fourth set overnight, safely levelled the match, but won just one of the first six games of the final set. Only when he stood on the verge of victory did Agassi falter. He missed four match points at 5-1 — the first on an overrule by the umpire — and only completed what he described as "one of the greatest achievements of my career" at the second attempt, winning 4-6, 6-2, 6-2, 4-6, 6-3.

McEnroe had his moment of crisis against Guy Forget, having to save six match points in the second set before running through the Frenchman's defences in straight sets. Ironically, McEnroe has been partly responsible for Agassi's assurance on grass this year as his practice partner since they

played doubles together in Paris. What did Agassi learn? "He told me that, on grass, every shot counts. I had this habit of hitting neutral balls, like I was on clay. But grass isn't like that," Agassi replied. What about the other way round? "I think I'd be fooling myself if I thought John could learn more from me than I could from him."

With respect to Sampras and Ivanisevic, all eyes today will be on the all-American act, which has light and shade in every aspect. The past master of the young pretender, the natural grasscourt v the Borg-like baseliner, Las Vegas v New York, teacher v pupil. "It's going to be nothing personal, just business, really," Agassi said.

## Seles reaches her final hurdle

By ANDREW LONGMORE  
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

WITH a whimper and a grunt, Monica Seles came to within one match of winning her first Wimbledon title and completing the third leg of the grand slam on the centre court yesterday. The top seed beat Martina Navratilova, as form suggested she would, but not with the conviction many expected.

Not until deep into the final set did Seles find enough pace or the consistency on her groundstrokes to dislodge Navratilova. She was told twice by the umpire to stop her grunting, after complaints by Navratilova, but the main distraction was provided by the strength and solidity of the former champion's serving and volleying.

She had promised to "give Seles some junk" and duly did so, mixing up the angles and slicing so hard and deep that Seles spent much of the afternoon trying to dig up passes from her ankles. For more than a moment, as the world No. 1 lost her usual dead-eyed accuracy, it seemed that the most fervent wishes of the centre court crowd would be granted, but it was not to be. Seles, still grunting, but a little breathless all the same, won 6-2, 6-7, 6-4.

"I thought of talking to Monica about the grunting before the match," Navratilova said. "But she might think that was gamesmanship, so I was stuck. I took the easier way out without getting controversial. If you don't say something during the match, I'm the one who loses out."

In tomorrow's final she will meet the No. 2 seed and



defending champion, Steffi Graf, who can rarely have played better than she did in overpowering Gabriela Sabatini in straight sets. Graf will have high hopes of gaining revenge for her recent defeat in the final of the French Open, because while Seles failed to find any rhythm on her famed passing shots, Graf looked a thoroughly efficient all-court player, dominating a strangely lethargic Sabatini from first to last.

Graf would not be drawn on her tactics to cope with the decibels in the final tomorrow. She did not complain during their lengthy final in Paris. "It's always been an issue, but it's the first time that the umpire has reacted to it. I think for some players it really helps. I didn't complain in France, but it got really loud at the end. We'll have to see," Graf said.

The physical presence, which has always set Navratilova apart from the rest on the centre court, was absent in the first set yesterday. She looked subdued, accepting, as if unable to believe she could win, which was surprising because her record against Seles is as good — or as bad, whichever way you look at it — as anyone else's in the game. If anything,

Seles has more trouble with the aging champion than she does with some of her potential successors.

The first set was all one way, Seles breaking in the first and seventh games and defying Navratilova's attempts to make wisdom and experience bigger factors in the equation than power and the confidence of youth. Her self-belief grew as it became clear that this was not the relentlessly efficient Seles she had anticipated. Suddenly, there was more spring in her step, more sting in the volleys. Any sign of weakness on the Seles serve was countered with a charge to the net and where, in the opening half an hour, many of the approaches were long, she increasingly found the right range.

Seles, whose own service was underpowered, had to save break points in the fourth game and a set point in the tenth before desperately seeking the sanctuary of the tie-break. She found none there, Navratilova, the No. 4 seed, volleying solidly, at times brilliantly, and probing Seles's suspect passing shots.

She took the tie-break 7-3 and was only broken, for the first time in 18 games, in the sixth game of the final set. Twice she was broken, twice she recovered until Seles belatedly produced a series of rapiers passes to break decisively for victory after nearly two hours.

She left the court to a standing ovation and with the air of someone who might not come back, but the impression proved false. "I am planning on being here next year," she said afterwards.

After the emotions of the first match, Graf and Sabatini never managed to emulate the drama of their final 12 months ago. That was because Graf was playing better and Sabatini much worse. Graf had 11 chances to break the Argentinian's notoriously suspect serve, but was impregnable on her own. One break in the first set, two in the second and Graf was through to her fifth final in six years.

□ About 100 centre court and court one tickets have been found to be invalid and confiscated during the championships, the All England Club said yesterday. In one case, a vendor had charged £1,600 for four tickets with a face value of £36 each.

The clampdown comes after Wimbledon introduced measures last year to minimise sales on the black market.



Grand slam bound: Seles on her way to the Wimbledon final yesterday

## Navratilova is beaten to the sound of Seles

By DAVID MILLER

MOST sports — football, rugby, cricket, boxing — get into a mess if they do not uphold their own rules. If the regulations of tennis had been applied yesterday, Monica Seles would probably not have beaten Martina Navratilova. The world's No. 1 is currently making the game sound like feeding time at the zoo.

The position is quite clear. The hindrance rule, under regulation 4/3/3 of the Women's Tennis Association rule book, states that "any ... continuous disruption of regular play such as grunting shall subject a player to a warning, and a penalty point thereafter." Seles does not merely grunt on almost every stroke: she has a two-tone double-grunt which develops, when about to lose a critical point, into a squeal of complaint.

Seles was warned by the umpire twice, justifiably encouraged by Navratilova: at 2-2 in the second set and after Seles had served for 5-2 in the final set and been broken. Navratilova's complaint, she later explained, was less the distraction of a noise like strangled bagpipes than the fact that the sound of the opponent's racket on the ball, a key guide to velocity, was being drowned.

The critical game for Navratilova in a long and exciting match was the fifth in the final set. She had three break-points to lead 3-2 with her own service to follow: she won none. However, the one point of the match she would most like to have again, she said, was that at 15-30 when, at the end of a rally, she left a drive by Seles thinking it would be long. It had been struck less hard than she thought and was good.

Seles's vocal accompaniment is less offensive than all the nonsense which for years the sport needlessly endured from Nastase, Connors and McEnroe, but is incontestably an interference with the opponent's play. In the old amateur game, it would have been called bad manners. The rules, as always, provide an answer if officialdom only has the will to impose it.

Navratilova silently made the point that Seles does not grunt when practising, which

contradicts Seles's contention that she cannot help it. Seles further contends that McEnroe and Agassi are unrepentant grunTERS, that she is being penalised specifically because she is a woman and the No. 1.

Seles would be more believable had her tactics not included a nasty piece of gamesmanship when leading 4-3 in the final set with Navratilova serving break point down at 30-40. Seles, waiting to receive, was leaping a yard back and forth from left to right. Navratilova refused to serve, began her rhythm again and there was huge applause when she saved the point in a baseline rally.

Seles says that she will spend the winter "practising" the elimination of her melodic exhalation. She needs to, because it was clear where the neutral crowd's sympathy lay, as she may rediscover tomorrow against Graf. The crowd, predominantly, decided Seles was expedient rather than girlishly amusing, though you could see the funny side: there were moments, rushing higher and higher in a continual howl of anguish that Seles seemed like some Disney character desperately bailing out a sinking ship.

Navratilova, initially outplayed, levelled at set-all, winning the tiebreak 7-3 with a succession of clenched, forearm gestures reminiscent of body-builders when photographed wearing little more than a clenched jaw smile. We knew that somewhere Virginia Wade would be telling listeners that "Martina is getting pumped up"; and although the view of Navratilova pumped up is one which many people seriously wish to avoid, there could be no doubting the sympathy now flowing her way.

She spoiled it a bit with her itchy-bitsy Marceau mime impersonations, but some sensational stop-volleys were leaving Seles stranded, physically and temperamentally.

Ultimately, however, that two-fisted backhand, which comes at you like a Foreman left jab, proved even more damaging to the nine-times former champion than any grunt.

## Dashing Sohail puts England's attack to flight

By ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

OLD TRAFFORD (first day of five; Pakistan won toss): Pakistan have scored 388 for three against England

THE other night, just down the road from Old Trafford, Greater Manchester police pulled off a covert operation codenamed Miracle. The task now confronting England's cricketers in this pivotal third Cornhill Test could command the same name after a day on which the darkest suspicions about the poverty of their bowling were realised by an innings of rare abandon from Aamer Sohail.

England took three wickets in the six-hour day and it might be argued they were fortunate to take so many. For the most part, Pakistan scored runs at will against bowling bereft of flair or penetration and fielding which recalled the bad old days in Australia two winners ago.

That this should happen on

David Gower's first day of Test cricket since that infamous tour was an unfortunate coincidence, but no more. Yesterday, while the nation waited to acclaim records from him, Gower could do nothing but stand and admire a left-hander after his own heart.

Sohail is 25 and has a very long way to go to rival Gower's achievements. But, by making 205 in a day, in only his fourth Test innings, he is going the right way about it.

He came on this tour with two reputations, one for being an uninhibited shot-maker ideal for one-day cricket, and the other for having a volatile temperament. Neither label seemed ideal for a Test match opener, but the faith invested in him has been handsomely rewarded.

England simply could not contain Sohail. He scored 60 in the morning session, 70 between lunch and tea and another 75 before, at 5.45pm, he aimed a tired drive at Chris Lewis and lost his off stump. No fewer than 128 of his runs

| OLD TRAFFORD SCOREBOARD                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |      |        |        |         |       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|--------|--------|---------|-------|
| Pakistan won toss                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |      |        |        |         |       |
| PAKISTAN: First Innings                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |      |        |        |         |       |
| Batter                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Runs | Strike | Wicket | How out | Score |
| Aamer Sohail b Lewis                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 205  | 148    | 32     | 343     | 284   |
| Bowled between bat and pad                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |      |        |        |         |       |
| Ramiz Raja c Russell b Malcolm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 54   | —      | 7      | 102     | 58    |
| Inside edge on to pad                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |      |        |        |         |       |
| Aref Mujtaba c Atherton b Lewis                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 57   | —      | 7      | 114     | 104   |
| Square cut head high to backward point                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |      |        |        |         |       |
| *Javed Miandad not out                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 59   | —      | 9      | 141     | 83    |
| *Moin Khan not out                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 7    | —      | 1      | 16      | 15    |
| Extras (p 1, lb 1, w 2, nb 2)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 6    |        |        |         |       |
| Total (3 wickets, 90 overs, 381 min)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 388  |        |        |         |       |
| Sohail 126, 3-375 (Javed 56)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |      |        |        |         |       |
| FALL OF WICKETS: 1-115 (Sohail 57), 2-241 (Sohail 126), 3-375 (Javed 56)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |      |        |        |         |       |
| BOWLING: Malcolm 20-27-117-0 (5-1-24-0), 6-0-26-1, 6-0-14-0, 2-1-8-0; Lewis 14-3-60-3 (nb 1, w 2), 14-1-17-0, 5-0-38-0, 3-1-5-1, 2-1-2-1; Munton 20-30-0-0 (nb 2), 17-1-36-0, 7-1-30-0, 6-1-24-0; Saleem 20-0-117-0 (nb 1), 6-0-45-0, 4-0-33-0, 7-0-35-0; Gooch 13-1-30-0 (5-0-13-0), 4-1-17-0, 1-0-17-0 (one spell) |      |        |        |         |       |
| ENGLAND: *G.A. Gooch, A.J. Stewart, M.A. Atherton, R.A. Smith, D.I. Gower, G.A. Hick, C.C. Lewis, R.C. Russell, T.A. Munton, I.D.K. Salisbury, D.E. Malcolm.                                                                                                                                                         |      |        |        |         |       |
| Umpires: R. Palmer and D.R. Shepherd                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |      |        |        |         |       |

had come in fours and his driving, on the up and on either side of the wicket, was worthy of a far bigger audience than yesterday's inexplicably poor attendance.

Once he had negotiated a few alarms when the new ball bounced steeply, Sohail revelled on the pitch, which is true and fast. He also, it must be said, revelled against an attack which, on paper, had looked England's thinnest for years and, in practice, endorsed the view.

It is almost inconceivable that Pakistan's four-man attack would have been so ineffectual and Javed Miandad was plainly torn between doing the logical and the adventurous when he won the toss. Dire day though it was for England, it might have been even worse had he chosen differently.

As it is, the equalising victory is already all but discounted and the rain forecast for today may only prevent Pakistan completing a total to allow Miandad and his bowlers full rein to attack.

Gooch had his preferred attacking field for less than an over, the time it took him to realise a third man was essential for Devon Malcolm on this pitch. Malcolm at his best would have been a handful but his length and line were inconsistent and his speed something short of frightening.

When Tim Munton, playing ahead of Derek Pringle, was summoned for his first Test bowl in the tenth over, Sohail was getting his range. Munton's first ball disap-

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HEALTH p5,6

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# LIFE & TIMES

FRIDAY JULY 3 1992

## My animals and other families

Gerald Durrell has not visited London zoo for years — he's too busy looking after his own, for one thing — but he would fight for it to continue as a window on the wild for urban children

Gerald Durrell sits on the terrace of his hillside house in the south of France, having a pre-prandial whisky and reading a book about the history of paper-making. There is not an animal in sight, unless you count ants, but I am here to ask him about the white elephant known as London zoo, now in dire financial straits and lumbering through to November on a gift of £1 million from the Emir of Kuwait.

Like many of us, Mr Durrell has not stepped inside London zoo for years. Our national zoo, founded in 1826 by Sir Stamford Raffles, lacks both lustre and contemporary appeal, even for a parent (me) of zoo-aged children living three miles from its gates. Well, we can all criticise, but have we ever tried to run a zoo?

Mr Durrell has, and with conspicuous success. When he founded Jersey zoo in 1959 the word conservation was hardly invented, but he had a big idea: to collect endangered species, breed them in sufficient numbers to guarantee their survival, and return their offspring to the wild. People he calls "habitual zoo-goers" tell him his is the only zoo where the animals look relaxed and happy.

Perhaps they like the gently undulating farmland in which the zoo is set, with ancient hedgerows and trees and a minimum of concrete. And the fact that they can picnic on the grass while flamingos stroll past. Or that every inmate — the marmoset from Brazil, the colony of lemurs, the family of gorillas, the cheetah in the paddock and the wallabies in the eucalyptus groves, the Chinese pheasant and the Sumatran orang-utan, has a story to be told by the master raconteur of animals. Mr Durrell's next book, *The Aye-Aye and I*, will be about how he captured another rare and curious beast in the forests of Madagascar.

He has left Jersey for the summer to write in peace in Nîmes, but it has rained for weeks. "We only had our first swim yesterday," he says mournfully. "If I got into the pool today I'd turn into a boy soprano."

So we repaired indoors, to the room where his elder brother, the late Lawrence Durrell, wrote *The Alexandria Quartet*: this was his house. The junior Durrell is 67, expansive, white-bearded, and increasingly irreverent as lunch proceeds. "I've got a reporter here," he tells someone who rings, "stuffed her face with my food that I've been up since dawn cooking [quail casserole, delicious] and she'll no doubt write something silly about me."

The Darwin of *de nos jours* sees himself as an endangered species, with his bionic hip implants and two lens implants: "cornealculated" is the word he uses (like an elephant, garbled). But he has a young, comely second wife, Lee, his zoological partner, a graduate of Bryn Mawr whose current study is the ploughshare tortoise of Madagascar. He likes to tell how he snared her as he might a fruitbat. He had gone to Duke University in North Carolina to see the lemurs, and there was Lee McGeorge, the only beautiful zoologist on the campus, "like a lily in a lavatory." Later he "tricked her" into coming to Jersey; they married in the garden of her family's home in Memphis, Tennessee. For their tenth wedding anniversary he gave his arachnophile wife three tarantulas.

"I would fight tooth and nail for the survival of London zoo," Mr Durrell says. "as I would for St Paul's cathedral: it must stay, but in a different form. There are a lot of bad zoos. But when Florence Nightingale was confronted by bad hospitals, she didn't say, 'We must close them down', she said, 'Why not make them better?'"

"This may seem like giving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to a dinosaur. It requires vision, leadership and money, not a council who sit around a table and moan. David Jones [the director of zoos] probably feels like a lonely piece of mince in a plate of spaghetti."

The problem with big 19th-century city zoos is that they were stationary circuses, or menageries, not designed for what we now know about animal behaviour. "Each zoo has to have its own special niche, its own objective. Our national zoo should be in the forefront of breeding programmes

### THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



of big, beautiful animals like the rhinoceros. If anybody in the government, most of whom couldn't distinguish a mouse from a giraffe, asked me what to do, I would say give London zoo the sort of stipend given to the major city zoos abroad and let them use their gate money for improvements. And give them a larger chunk of Regent's Park, which is only a repository for dog poo and courting couples.

"London zoo has lumbered along, with cosmetic improvements like those awful Italian cemeteries where everyone tries to outdo each other with flowers and madonnas. Then the architects say their work must be preserved. But Lubetkin's penguin pool is appalling. The Mappin terraces are the most horrific things ever devised, there are the brutalist concrete elephant house and the aviary... half the buildings are archaic and useless and loved only by architects, who should all be shot at birth."

Of rescue plans such as that proposed by the Laing consortium, which this week brought the American architect Peter Chermeyeff to London with his £61 million plan for a vast walk-through aquarium and rainforest terraces, Mr Durrell says: "These people must be watched carefully, or before you know it you'll have a Disneyland in Regent's Park with plastic baobab trees that look 2,000 years old. You have to ask who you are designing it for — the people or the animals? In Jersey we design for the animals, people can come and watch if they want."

Like young Albert Ramsbottom in Stanley Holloway's monologue, who found Wallace the somnolent lion "lying so peaceful" which "didn't seem right to the child", the modern brat, raised on David Attenborough films and safari parks, demands something more thrilling — although, as Mr Durrell rightly says, "In a safari park it is the human beings who are confined." Television programmes have opened up the wildlife world, but they cannot recreate the actual feeling of being near the marvellous majesty of the whale, the dimensions of giraffe or elephant.

"Children are brought up in high-rise flats without even a

bloody goldfish. City zoos are the only access they have to nature. They can't go on grand safaris to East Africa; and this is true even in Africa, where they can't afford to go up-country to see an elephant. In Zimbabwe I was given a present of two beautiful birds created out of scrap metal by an African artist. So I asked him to make me a pair of giraffe. But he couldn't do it: he'd never seen a giraffe."

I mention the wretched polar bear in Regent's Park which for years did nothing but slope to and fro, giving neurotic twists of the head, pathetically deprived of an ice floe, but Mr Durrell regards objections to the caging of animals as imbecilic: do people think animals in cages are being deprived of taking a holiday on the Costa del Sol? "Half of them have never kept a hamster: they know nothing of keeping animals in captivity. They don't know what bountiful Mother Nature is like: that you have to look over your shoulder just to exist, search for your food, protect your young — I mean it's worse than living in Liverpool. They may think all animals ought to go back to Mum Nature, but she is a bloody hard taskmaster."

The word "zoo" was the first he spoke, his mother said. At two, still living in India, he would go with his ayah to the Janshedpur zoo with its moth-eaten, malodorous exhibits. When the family settled on the island of Corfu, he began collecting minnows, woodlice, slugs and scorpions, as related in *My Family and Other Animals*, now a set text in many schools. "That book," he says, taking another slice of creamy cheese, "has kept me in cheese ever since."

What beguiles readers is the idea of the English boy free to roam the Mediterranean dunes and olive groves, accepting a gull from a murderer in Corfu's prison, catching terrapins and lizards. Few could emulate this idyll, but he thinks every child should realise it is just as absorbing to study the earwig as the elephant; that every puddle is a teeming jungle.

His zoological career began in 1945 when he went to Whipsnade as a dogbody, or student keeper, and graduated from caterpillars and hedgehogs to elephants and tigers. "The keepers looked at me askance because I wrote notes the whole time: to me all the animals were personalities."

When he was 21 he inherited £3,000 from his father, who had died when he was two; it financed his first animal-collecting expedition to the tropics. His elder brother told him to write about it. "Of course if I could write novels I'd be a millionaire by now. I'd be a Lord, I dare say."

So he produced *The Overloaded Ark*, his first book, an instant success in 1953. Who could forget his tale of Chalmers (known as Chumley), the chimpanzee he met in the British Cameroons before shipping it to London zoo? Chumley was a real personality: his small eyes, Mr Durrell wrote,



If I could talk to the animals: Gerald Durrell at his Jersey zoo with some ruffed lemurs, an endangered species from Madagascar

seemed to have "a glimmer of ironic laughter in their depths". He would loll on the sofa, drinking tea from a colossal tin mug and smoking a cigarette, which he could light with a lighter, blowing smoke out of his nostrils, wearing his chain of captivity with the air of a Lord Mayor. One day Chumley downed a bottle of beer, which made him turn drunken somersaults.

Durrell later visited him at the zoo, where he was happy and popular: he even became a television star. But twice he broke open his cage and absconded across Regent's Park: the first time he got on a bus and bit a passenger; the second time Chumley was shot as a public menace.

Mr Durrell cannot speak of an animal without painting a graphic word-picture of it. He shudders at anthropomorphism (he hates *Black Beauty* for its erroneous picture of the horse) but reserves the right to say a creature looks like a washerwoman with ingrown toenails, or that he is very fond of the road family: "Quiet, well-mannered creatures with nice characteristics." "His writing style," as his brother Lawrence once said, "is like fresh, crisp lettuce." When he first went to California he asked to see two things: the sea otters and Charles Schulz, the creator of Charlie Brown — Mr Durrell is a great Snoopy fan — and was enchanted by both. "The otters lay in the water," he says, "with their fingers entwined, like bishops."

In the 1950s he approached his

publisher, Sir Rupert Hart-Davis, for a loan of £25,000 to start his zoo. "I said: 'It will provide me with endless material for books. It's an investment, my dear fellow.'" Sir Rupert obliged, and Mr Durrell is undyingly grateful.

His charming zoo was to have been sited outside Bournemouth (to tap tourists) but the local panjandrum defeated him: Jersey gave all the necessary permits within three days of his finding the perfect old manor house, Les Augres, in rolling parkland, later augmented by buying the estate next door. The whole story, he says, has been a series of little miracles he calls Durrell's luck.

He found his own Emir of Kuwait-like benefactor in the person of Edward Whitley, a young writer whose great-uncle Herbert founded Paignton zoo. "He came to see me in Jersey with his wife Araminta and they said they liked what we were doing and would like to give us some money and I thought he meant £300. Well, it turned out it was a million quid, from his family trust."

Mr Whitley's munificence underwrites the training centre, which trains people to ensure the safe return of threatened species to their native habitat. Mr Whitley accompanied the trainees and went with Mr Durrell to Madagascar to rescue lemurs from the cooking-pot. There is now a Durrell Institute for Conservation and Ecology (DICE) at the University of Kent, and for anyone wanting to save a particular species there is Jersey zoo's Save Animals From Extinction (SAFE) fund. "But no one likes the acronym SAFE," Mr Durrell says. "It sounds like a condom."

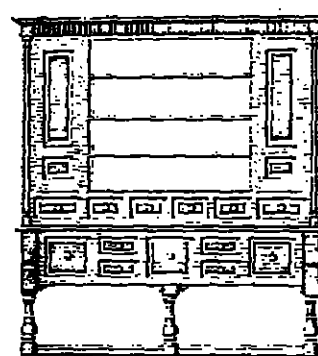
Londoners would dearly love to feel civic pride in their zoo, of the kind enjoyed by citizens of Vancouver, San Diego, Monterey, Tokyo or Auckland, who whisk visitors to see whales and dolphins and sharks performing what Americans insist on calling "behaviours". But even the Durrells found their gate down by 30 per cent last year. The recession? Or a growing preference for family outings of low cultural content, such as fairgrounds? Until the 1950s, crowds thronged to London zoo on high days and holidays; but that was before Attenborough, Longleat lions, safari parks, theme parks, leisure parks. On Good Friday, the Princess of Wales again took her sons to Thorpe Park in Surrey, which has no wild animals.

"It's sad that nobody seems to understand the increasing future importance of zoos", Mr Durrell says, "as reserves of rare animals from which we can draw to replenish the wild. If there is a wild to replenish."

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Bettering his apes: Gerald Durrell checks on how things are proceeding down at the gorilla pit

situation where the outside of Century Theatre in Keswick, of course, is to fill all the seats. I see of gauche innocence and those who like their television. I



**DEATH IN VENICE:** Stephen Lawless's production, with elegantly minimal design by Tobias Hübner, was originally staged by Glyndebourne Touring Opera. The three principals from the outstanding original cast — Robert Tear as the doomed Aschenbach, Michael Chance as a stunning Apollo, Alan Ope as the sinister bassoon player — have been reassembled now that the production has joined the Festival of the Three. The production is the first night of Glyndebourne's new, East Sussex (0773 541111), tonight, 8.00pm.

**IL VIAGGIO A REIMS:** Covent Garden celebrates the 100th anniversary of the first production of the opera by the Paris Opéra for the coronation of Charles X in 1825. On the grounds that the work ends up offering a model of international harmony, the production is also intended to mark Britain's presidency of the European Community. The international cast includes Montserrat Caballé, Sella McArthur, John Alcega, John Lee, and Bonaventura Bottone. Carlo Rizzi conducts. The production is at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 0 0 0 (0773 240 1069/911), tomorrow, 7.30pm.

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**Platform 2:** The festival ends with a "new music" marathon, an outdoor event offering a series of non-stop performance. Gary Cooper,

## TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Karl Knight

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**10.00am** **ANGELS IN AMERICA:** Thrilling performance in Tony Kushner's landmark play. The production is at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 0 0 0 (0773 240 1069/911), tonight, 8.00pm, tomorrow, 2pm, 1.30pm.

**10.00am** **AS YOU LIKE IT:** Catherine Harrison and Oliver Platt find true love in the forest. The production is at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 0 0 0 (0773 240 1069/911), tonight, 8.00pm, tomorrow, 2pm, 1.30pm.

**10.00am** **DEATH AND THE MAIDEN:** Ariel Dorfman's scorching psychological drama on the longings for revenge. The production is at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 0 0 0 (0773 240 1069/911), tonight, 8.00pm, tomorrow, 2pm, 1.30pm.

**10.00am** **DEATH IN VENICE:** Stephen Lawless's production, with elegantly minimal design by Tobias Hübner, was originally staged by Glyndebourne Touring Opera. The three principals from the outstanding original cast — Robert Tear as the doomed Aschenbach, Michael Chance as a stunning Apollo, Alan Ope as the sinister bassoon player — have been reassembled now that the production has joined the Festival of the Three. The production is the first night of Glyndebourne's new, East Sussex (0773 541111), tonight, 8.00pm.

**10.00am** **IL VIAGGIO A REIMS:** Covent Garden celebrates the 100th anniversary of the first production of the opera by the Paris Opéra for the coronation of Charles X in 1825. On the grounds that the work ends up offering a model of international harmony, the production is also intended to mark Britain's presidency of the European Community. The international cast includes Montserrat Caballé, Sella McArthur, John Alcega, John Lee, and Bonaventura Bottone. Carlo Rizzi conducts. The production is at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 0 0 0 (0773 240 1069/911), tomorrow, 7.30pm.

**10.00am** **A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM:** Canadian prodigy Robert Lepage makes his directorial debut with the National Theatre's production of the play. The production follows the British premiere of his stunning 50-hour show, *The Dragons Trilogy*, at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. He directs Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the second production ever to be staged at the National Theatre. Jeffrey Carver plays Oberon, Sally Dwyer as Titania and Timothy Spall plays Bottom. The play opens on Thursday (see feature, page 3).

**10.00am** **Platform 2:** The festival ends with a "new music" marathon, an outdoor event offering a series of non-stop performance. Gary Cooper,

## THEATRE

# Risks rewarded by enchantment

SHAKESPEARE threw down quite a challenge when he penned that famous instruction, "exit, pursued by a bear". Many are the ursine possibilities open to directors. I have seen Antigonus chased offstage by a large and small, smooth and grizzly, realistically aggressive and disconcertingly symbolic. I have even seen the poor man picked up and cradled by a ten-foot-tall polar bear that, by some miracle of theatrical geography, had found its way from Lapland to Bohemia. But I have never seen the encounter staged as thoughtfully or as oddly as Adrian Noble stages it for the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Noble's bear pads hulkingly onstage just after Andrew Jarvis's Antigonus has set down Perdita, the infant rejected and banished by her father Leontes. The monster sniffs at the baby, as if pondering an appetizer, and she gives a tiny, doll-like bleat. Antigonus stands his ground, ready to protect her. Then down from the flies, white silks billowing, floats a phantasm, vaguely recognisable as Perdita's mother, Hermione. Exit Antigonus, exit bear. The child is saved.

To be honest, the hovering mum is a bit preposterous. Yet at least Noble is prepared to take imaginative risks and, unlike most directors in these national times, at least he realises that supernatural powers play a vital part in *The Winter's Tale*. At best, there is magic and wonder in his production.

The literal-minded side of me could not see why Leontes had put Hermione on trial for infidelity in a barren field in a rainstorm. But when retributive lightning scattered his courtiers and a violent wind sent them and their umbrellas spinning, well, my more credulous side approved.

The first half is the weaker, perhaps because John Nettles's Leontes has yet

## The Winter's Tale

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford

to find the necessary intensity of monomaniacal jealousy. His manner is surprisingly genial at first and, though there are moments when the voice becomes thick or scrambled, his gentility turns out not to conceal the full horror and disgust of someone who has "drunk and seen the spider" in his ontological glass. When he tries to show obsessive emotion, as when he publicly refuses to raise the supposed bastard, Perdita, he flings his arms aloft and becomes around. Authentic feeling is left to Samantha Bond's Hermione, who defends herself with a forceful dignity, and to Gemma Jones's Paulina, a formidable lady when she puts her hands on her hips and lets rip at Leontes.

The production takes off in the second half, at times in the most literal way. Quite what balloons mean to Noble I am not sure, joy, uplift and enchantment, perhaps. At any rate, he introduced plenty of them for the birthday party with which he opened the play, then banished them from the stage, and now brings them back in abundance. Autolycus arrives dangling from a vast cluster of airborne green balloons. The sheep-shearing festival becomes a village fête, complete with red, blue and yellow balloons. Balloons have a comic role to play in a sedately phallic dance. The chorus. Time, makes no physical appearance, but instead leaves Benjamin Whitrow's Camillo to read a speech that has arrived by, yes, carrier-balloon.

Noble's lively handling of his 1930s or 1940s costumes and props adds to



John Nettles and Gemma Jones: genial Leontes, formidable Paulina

the upbeat feel. So does Richard McCabe's Autolycus, exuding rubbery-faced glee as he relieves passing dupes of everything from watches to bikes. Yet Noble passes the big test, which is to make the play's shift from emotional winter to spiritual spring moving as well as fun. There was an audible

sniffing around me as Nettles's Leontes, more powerful in rheumy, grizzled regret than in rage, those he had wronged and lost. "My heart wept blood," remarked a lord. Well, not quite, but nearly.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

## LONDON OPERA FESTIVAL

# Cut against the grain

Semiramide  
Riverside Studios, Hammersmith

POCKET Opera of Nuremberg specialises in cut-down performances, after the manner of the Stockholm Folkoperan and, occasionally, our own City of Birmingham Touring Opera. But at a rather lower level. An *Aida* brought to London six years ago was a moderately diverting essay in the art of coarse opera performance, and a one-evening Ring has been widely toured. But this *Semiramide* should, like Miss Adelaide's mink, be returned to where it came at the earliest opportunity.

It was not the cutting of about a third of the score that one objected to, or the re-scoring for a band of six plus synthesizer, though it would have helped if the players had not been quite so bad. At one point they stopped for a tuning session — a prelude to an inutility.

# Course with obstacles

The Rake's Progress

Blackheath Concert Hall

ONE feared for a certain celebrated baritone when reading that Thomas Allen was cast for Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress*. This one, however, proved to be from New York, among the young singers and orchestral players from the Britten-Pears School at Snape, whose summer course each year culminates in operatic performance.

Twenty-four hours after appearing at the Aldeburgh Festival, they all came south for this "operatic weekend" at Blackheath. A first priority for the intended development of staged opera here must be improved sight lines from seats on an unraised floor with the orchestra on the same level.

Nor that there was much to see in Julia Hollander's grievously lit staging, less a production than an obstacle course for singers wearing mostly everyday clothes and no character

# makeup, apart from Baba the Turk's beard. The 30-strong chorus in evening dress was sometimes part of the action, sometimes not, but sang well under Roderick Brydon, whose conducting generated more spirit after a lacklustre first act.

Louise Crane had the most equivocal role as Mother Goose in a slinky red strapless number, wearing a mortarboard to teach Tom his brother lessons, snapping a condom expectantly, and being left sitting astride him through the next scene. With nothing more to sing thereafter, she was kept employed as part-time scene shifter, props lady and general assistant to Nick Shadow.

He was expressively sung by Charles Gibbs with a touch of diabolic menace, controlling the destiny of Allen's plaintive Tom to an ultimate madhouse scene more poignant than tragic. Frances Young's Ann Trulove revealed a firm and flexible soprano, and Deborah Hawkesley was a silky-voiced Baba. Vernon Kirk's Sellem had the verbal advantage of conducting his auction from the floor of the hall, in front of an orchestra whose balance was only gradually brought to terms with the resonant acoustics.

NOEL GOODWIN

RODNEY MILNES

## CONCERTS

# Welcome new departures

Water and Hot Air

Platform 2

ICA

Water and Hot Air, gave the most promising hint of what this instrument is capable of. The first was atmospherically static, the second a fast, teasingly complex interplay of rhythms and tempos.

The concert later the same evening, given by the Platform Ensemble under Nicolson's quietly efficient direction, consisted of far meatier material. Nicolson's own *Cradle Song* of the

Disappeared was the only premiere here. Based on a traditional Gaelic lullaby, the piece just failed to capture the ghostly, mystic flavour intended, though Nicolson commands an impressive armoury of colouristic and dramatic effects.

Karl Aagaard Rasmussen's recent *Paris Apart* is a deconstruction and reconstruction of Bach's organ variations on *Von Himmel hoch* (and of Stravinsky's

1956 adaptation). It sounded horribly dry and worthy until the final movement, when the players hit drums, stamped feet, honked car horns and shouted disembodied syllables.

The programme was framed by Kenakis, whose seventieth birthday the series is celebrating. First came *Epicycles* (1989) for cello (the excellent Oystein Birkeland) and ensemble: a curiously soft-edged, modal-sounding work. Last came *Waarg* (1988), a chunky edifice of rough-cut granite, boldly shaped in sometimes repetitious patterns. Beside the ultra-refinement of Simon Holt's exquisite *Kites* it seemed positively crude.

STEPHEN PETTITT

## ENTERTAINMENTS

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SUNSHINE ROOM  
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## GALLERIES

# Repressed soul drawn to the light

Has the 'English Impressionist' been undervalued? Richard Cork assesses the work of Alfred Sisley, whose paintings are now on show at the Royal Academy

English by birth but French by lifelong affiliation, Alfred Sisley has always suffered in comparison with the other Impressionists. Monet, Renoir and Pissarro were all robust individuals, however committed they may once have been to a group initiative. Sisley, by contrast, seems moderate to a fault. His paintings lack the instantly recognisable stamp that singles out an artist from all his like-minded contemporaries.

But are we unfair in relegating Sisley to a minor place in the Impressionist pantheon? He did, after all, paint almost 900 pictures before cancer of the throat killed him at 60. Assembling the highlights of this prolific career might force us to think again about an achievement which Manet described as "a moment of nature".

Recognising that Sisley was an uneven artist, the Royal Academy has limited its survey to a choice array of just over 70 canvases. The sparseness of the selection pays off. Hung in the pellucid white chambers of Sir Norman Foster's delectable Sackler Galleries, Sisley is seen throughout only at his best.

Precisely because he has been overshadowed by his allies, the audacity of his conversion to Impressionism is often overlooked. But the survey discloses that he made an enormous leap when moving, in the 1870s, away from his early landscapes. While attracted to the refreshing realism of the Barbizon School, the young Sisley favoured a disappointingly dark tonality in his forest scenes. Concentrating in a large picture on an avenue of chestnut trees near La Celle Saint-Cloud, he excluded the light to such an extent that the image is suffused with gloom.

If we strain our eyes and peer into the shadows, a Courbet-like dourness can be detected. But the animal's presence fails to alleviate the dourness, and Sisley's unwillingness to

let the sky play a more potent role seems all the more puzzling in view of his subsequent development.

At this stage, he carried out his work as doggedly as the peasant chopping branches in another early painting. Even when Sisley escaped from the forest, and tackled an extensive view of Montmartre from the Cité des Fleurs, the outcome was plodding. Nothing could be more joyless than the deadened sky hanging over this oppressive panorama, where the foreground is dominated by the starved forms of saplings as they struggle to survive in the bare, uninviting earth.

With hindsight, we can see just how repressed Sisley's response to nature remained in the late 1860s. But the end of the decade coincided with his determination, along with such friends as Renoir and Monet, to let his art be invaded by sunlight, wind and the vivacity of a continually changing landscape. Deciding to terminate his brief engagement with the urban scene, Sisley moved away from Paris and set up his easel in provincial riverside locations.

The transformation of his art was swift and spectacular. By 1872, two years before the First Impressionist Exhibition, he had liberated his imagination with extraordinary panache. Look at the superb *Bridge of Villeneuve-la-Garenne*, where the sky is at last permitted to assume the importance it would enjoy in so much of his work.

Large areas of untroubled blue allow the sun to hit the façade of the central house, so that its white walls sing out with luminous clarity. Sisley's high spirits can be sensed in every impulsive stab of the brush, as he deftly summarises the fat little clouds and, with far more delicate marks, rejoices in the breeze-ruffled surface of the water below.

Nature is now seen as a living force rather than something inert. But Sisley does not succumb to



*The Bridge of Villeneuve-la-Garenne, 1872: Sisley's high spirits can be sensed in every impulsive stab of the brush*

flimsiness in his search for the animating pulse of the locales he scrutinises. In the same year, a painting called *Village on the banks of the Seine* harnesses the composition with foreground trees almost as sturdily constructed as Cézanne's. They provide an ideal foil for the interplay of water, sky and sun-dappled ground beyond.

Judging by the paintings gathered here, 1872 was for Sisley an *annus mirabilis*. Confronted by the challenge of depicting a flood at Port-Marly, he resorted to an unprecedented amount of austerity. The most prominent forms are a stripped winter tree and, next to it, a cable stanchion. Juxtaposing the natural and the man-made, Sisley makes their reflections as solid as the forms themselves. Their lean verticality is thereby permitted to travel from the top of the canvas to the bottom, lending the entire design a rigour which Mondrian would have relished.

Sisley comes across here as a tougher artist than is usually claimed. And during a three-month visit to England in 1874, he moved even further in the direction of a stern pictorial order. At Hampton Court, where some of his

finest work was produced, he ignored the beguiling Tudor architecture in favour of a recently built iron bridge.

The most arresting picture concentrates on the underbelly of this resolutely modern structure. Between the nearest set of pillars, a boat nestles in a cool, shadowy berth. Its summertime indolence is contrasted with the bright, quick, straining figures of the white-vested rowers beyond. Brilliant in the sun-gleam, they nevertheless seem evanescent up against the nave-like dignity of the bridge supports.

If Sisley had pursued this passion for structural authority in the years to come, he might have been at the forefront of efforts in the 1880s to stiffen Impressionism's fleeting lyricism with order and permanence. But while most of his contemporaries followed that path, he remained content with a supple, unassuming appraisal of the thing seen.

Without his untiring interest in shifts of climate, seasons and times of day, Sisley's work of this period would seem monotonous. Formally repetitive as an artist, his adherence to early Impressionist principles might have become predictable. He was never driven by the restlessness that galvanised his allies, with their perpetual need to revise and extend

the achievements of the 1870s. But if he seems restricted in scope, Sisley's attentiveness to the caught moment gives his work a continuing freshness.

Although a small study of *Snow at Louveciennes* seems simple enough, the painting is wonderfully alive to the dense, muffled purity of the lane while a solitary woman moves through the enveloping whiteness. Sisley's brush becomes unusually free above the walls, where snow-laden branches are rendered as an excited flurry of crisply defined arcs lancing through the softness around them.

Unlike some of his contemporaries, he did not enjoy an innovative late phase. Settling in the ancient town of Moret-sur-Loing, which he described to Monet as "rather a chocolate-box landscape", Sisley embarked on a sequence of paintings of the church. Comparisons with Monet's series of Rouen Cathedral façades are inevitable, and unfavourable to Sisley. Even when glistering from a recent downpour or assailed by the full power of the sun, his church never threatens to dissolve in light. Monet's encrusted visions are ethereal; Sisley's remain earthbound.

Sisley looks cautious when measured against the constantly adventurous Monet, and I found myself wondering why he did not push his art further away from customary procedures in the 1890s. "What is Sisley?" grumbled Signac, before concluding: "a prettified, bourgeois version of Monet". But perhaps the two men should not be so automatically set in competition with each other. Sisley's lack of pretension has its charm, and the signs are that he wanted to consolidate rather than experiment in his final years.

The paintings of Moret, where slabs of medieval masonry seem embedded in the calm water, are the most solid images he ever produced. They may lack his former vivacity, but Sisley was engaged in an honourable attempt to stiffen Impressionism with a sense of impregnable grandeur. The Royal Academy's well-timed summer offering enables us to understand that last ambition more clearly, and view the modest triumphs of his entire career with sympathy, respect and pleasure.

Alfred Sisley is at the Royal Academy, Piccadilly, London W1 (071-439 7458) until October 18. In tomorrow's Times Saturday Review, Richard Cork reassesses the Impressionists' love affair with London.

## CRITIC'S CHOICE: GALLERIES

● **ORIENTAL GARDENS:** The whole range of Asian gardens is considered in this show, from Turkey to Japan. The ideal distillation of unruly nature into order and symmetry, contrasts strongly with the Far Eastern notion of the garden as a miniature reproduction of nature.

British Library, Great Russell Street, WC1 (071-323 7505). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2-30-6pm, until September 27.

● **ANNE REDPATH:** Though recognised as one of the finest of 20th-century Scottish artists, Anne Redpath has never been as familiar as she deserves south of the border. The centenary of her birth falls in 1995, and will no doubt be marked by a substantial retrospective. Meanwhile here is a small but telling foretaste: some 25 paintings dating from all periods of her career, including two rare landscapes from the early Thirties as well as fine examples of her later jewel-like encrustations of colour.

Duncan R. Miller, 17 Flask Walk, Hampstead, NW3 (071-435 5462). Mon-Sat, 11am-6pm, Sun, 1-5pm, until July 25.

● **PAUL HELLEU:** Few artists summon up the lost world of Marcel Proust more vividly than Helleu. Though he did paint, he seems to have kept the best of himself for his prints, and was certainly one of the most brilliant practitioners of the tricky art of the drypoint, and specialised particularly in depicting beautiful and elegant women.

Lumley Cazalet, 24 Davies Street, W1 (071-491 4767). Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm, until July 24.

● **MASTER DRAWINGS:** An annual excitement of summer is Colnaghi's show of Old Master and 19th-century drawings. This year the new discoveries include a splendid Poniorno sketch for the head of a man in the National Gallery's *Joseph in Egypt* and a study of an old woman by Parmigianino.

Colnaghi, 14 Old Bond Street, London W1 (071-491 7408). Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm, until July 11.

● **FLOW FROM THE FAR EAST:** So little is known in Europe about new Korean art that it is hard to say how representative this selection of four painters is. Dai Won Lee, the oldest, is bright and colourful, clearly shaped by traditional Korean subject matter. Chong Hyun Ha, at the other extreme, goes in for monochromatic paintings.

Concourse Gallery, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (071-638 4141). Mon-Sat, 10am-7.30pm, Sun, midday-7.30pm, until July 22.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

## NEW THEATRES

## Comfort stages a comeback

Contemporary theatrical architecture is becoming adaptable, inviting and as intimate as Georgian playhouses. The latest example is in Edinburgh, where the Traverse Theatre has shed its old constricting cloak and slipped into something more comfortable: a purpose-built subterranean playhouse with two auditoriums and air conditioning. The first production in the new house — a new play about Christopher Columbus by Michael Geleste — opens tonight.

Neatly tucked next to Edinburgh's Usher Hall, in Cambridge Street, the new Traverse is reached via a dramatic turret-like structure called *The Drum* — echoes of the Elizabethan playhouse — and then by stairs or lift leading into the hub of activity below.

"A particular concern was getting the audience very close to the stage," says Nicholas Groves-Raines, the architect of the building, which Edinburgh District Council has fitted out at a cost of £3.4 million. "With only five rows in any of the in-the-round or transverse arrangements, and with a steep rake, the relationship to the stage is very immediate."

Its intimacy is shared by many contemporary venues. London's Orange Tree and Tricycle Theatre have both been rebuilt and modelled on a "courtyard" design, with the audience wrapped round the actors in semi-circular galleries. Next year, the Croydon Warehouse may no longer be housed in a warehouse. The present building is due to be demolished and replaced with an office block, while a new flexible playhouse with a "slightly art deco feel", according

The grim, concrete boxes that dominated 1960s theatre architecture are now being abandoned in favour of more intimate, flexible spaces, writes Joseph Williams



Getting closer to the action: Nicholas Groves-Raines

ing to Edward Craig, the artistic director at the Warehouse, will be constructed on a nearby site.

Today's theatres are not as elaborate as the Alhambra, Grand and Empires of yesterday, but they are no functional or brutalist behemoths either. The acclaimed Leeds West Yorkshire Playhouse, which opened in 1990 at a cost of over £13 million, boasts patterned brickwork, bays, and overhanging roof.

"We needed a building that was approachable, but not off-putting," says William Weston, executive director of the Playhouse. "You can get a situation where the outside of

Cumbria, where stars such as Bob Hoskins and Tom Courtenay once cut their teeth. Two architectural models — Georgian and Ancient Greek — were mooted. Alan Forsyth, of Benson and Forsyth, which has been awarded planning permission for the new building, says architects increasingly consider the intimacy of modern productions: "You can be the only person in a cinema and enjoy the movie, but not in the theatre: there's this triangular relationship between yourself, other members of the audience, and what's happening on stage."

Theatres also require complete flexibility of seating arrangements. A studio theatre completed last Christmas at Carshalton in Surrey can be adapted to eight formats, including single direction and theatre-in-the-round. With its mobile seating, Northampton's Denmead Centre can change from concert hall to promenade stage to trade and exhibition centre.

But can adaptability be taken too far? "The danger with flexible spaces is that you can get something banal and anodyne," says Axel Burroughs, a director at Levitt Bernstein Associates, which built the Wilde Theatre in Bracknell, Berkshire, and Manchester's Royal Exchange Theatre in the Seventies. "Unless they are well designed, flexible spaces tend not to give you that tingle down the spine that you get from the old Victorian theatres."

That "tingle down the spine" has been a part of the Traverse experience for more than 25 years. How will writers, actors and audiences — so used to rubbing shoulders in a cramped but creative atmosphere — take to a high-tech modern playhouse? The intimacy of the new auditoriums — about 250 and 100 seats respectively — should help preserve the atmosphere.

But the fact remains that the company, as Groves-Raines says, "needed to move on, otherwise they would stagnate." The new Traverse is not only a purpose-built theatre for new writing, but flexible enough to adapt to dance and even film. The challenge now, of course, is to fill all the seats.

## JAZZ

## Lovey-dovey at the double

of folk, rock and jazz.

Together they would make an unforgettable impression in an intimate club. The Festival Hall, on the other hand, is a forbidding venue for a duo whose only props are a guitar amp, a stool, a bottle of water and a discreet lighting rig. In the event they came through in some style, though after more than 90 minutes they were close to exhausting all the permutations.

Horace Silver's miniature, "Togetherness", set them off on a wistfully romantic note, in a set which was an appealing mix of well-known and obscure songs. Cathcart gave a haunting version of "In My Life", and hearing her on "They Can't Take That Away From Me", you couldn't help wishing that she would take on show tunes more often.

A woman of diva-like build, she slipped off her shoes at the

end of "High Heel Blues", a self-mocking capella lament about the side-effects of wearing fashionable footwear. She was equally assured on Willie Dixon's "The Voodoo Music" and the Cyndi Lauper hit "Time After Time". Not all the pieces were quite so memorable, and in this stark format any sub-standard lyrics stood out all the more clearly.

Cathcart's habit of building to a climax by repeating phrases at length was also subject to sharply diminishing returns, as if she was unsure how to find her way out of the song. On the new album she is credited as sole arranger; drafting in a more experienced hand might make a big difference.

CLIVE DAVIS

## TELEVISION REVIEW

## Hats off to the dos and don'ts

With the hot fashion for punning in the titles of television programmes, you naturally assume that a programme called *Heavy Petting* is going to tell you how to care for your pet hippo, what to feed a house-trained sow and whether current etiquette allows your aardvark to share your duvet.

In fact the programme (one of Channel 4's *True Stories*), turned out to be a documentary by Obie Benz about sex and foreplay in Fifties and early Sixties America.

Clips from newsreels and educational films about sex, slurs and social norms were intercut with present-day interviews with such luminaries as David Byrne, the singer, the comic Sandra Bernhard, and William Burroughs, the writer, about their first sexual experiences. A soundtrack of pop classics of that period turned the programme into a cross between *American Graffiti* and an unusually explicit jeans commercial.

The essential message of the clips was, as one mother warned, "Don't do the dos and do the don'ts", though that could just as easily have been the title of a Motown hit single. The nostalgic interviewees recalled lurching moments with bra straps in the back seats of fathers' cars. The contrast was presumably meant to show that this was an age of saucy innocence and

wham-bam-thank-you-mam it might have seemed a little longish. After only an hour of this televisual foreplay, I was ready to sit back and light up a relaxing cigarette.

There were several odd confessions about adolescent sex, but few weirder than the tale by the writer Spalding Gray about the fashion for rubbing

private parts with a piece of fur. Since Dave Crockett has made of animal pelts were popular at the time, they came in handy. Or maybe they became popular as the fashion spread. So, at least one tip on indoor animal husbandry after all.

JOE JOSEPH

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## Wielding the chain of office

The French mayor may often be small town and small-time, but is always a force to be reckoned with.

Robin Young reports

Mayors in Britain are civic dignitaries who wear their chains and robes of office for only a year, and wield no special political clout. In France, as Joel Willmonte, the mayor of Hautmont, proved this week, the status of the mayor is very different.

M Willmonte called for a town referendum on a demand that the French government should ban North Africans coming to live in his town, a suburb of Maubeuge, where unemployment is up to 25 per cent. M Willmonte's initiative has severely embarrassed mainstream French politicians, and seriously alarmed Hautmont's Arab residents.

British visitors to France are most likely to see mayors fulfilling the customary roles of civic dignitaries — opening fêtes, crowning carnival queens, or handing out prizes — but in France mayors are also important political figures. Government ministers are frequently mayors as well, and in fact a majority of the present cabinet hold municipal positions. Pierre Bérégovoy, the prime minister, is mayor of Nevers, and his two predecessors were also mayors of their home towns as well. President François Mitterrand was a mayor, former president Valéry Giscard d'Estaing was mayor of Chamalières, and the man who would like to replace President Mitterrand, Jacques Chirac, has the pole starting position of being mayor of Paris. Jacques Delors was mayor of Clichy, a Paris suburb, before he became the chairman of the European Commission.

If they are more influential, French mayors are also more numerous than those anywhere else. There are more than 36,000 communes (the smallest territorial division of the administrative hierarchy) and every one has its mayor. For its population France has three times as many mayors as any of its EC partners.

The French mayors, with their municipal councils, dispose of annual budgets totalling about FF700 billion, the equivalent of more than £70 billion. It is virtually half France's national budget, but the really big spenders are of course confined to the larger cities and towns.

More than 25,000 mayors have fewer than 700 inhabitants in their communes, and many count on no more than a few families in their flock.

The mayors of small villages and towns, unlike the controversial M Willmonte, usually play a more paternal (or maternal, because a proportion of French mayors are women) role than a partisan political one. They do their best to please everyone.

Alain Schiffrès, the political commentator, wrote of them recently in a newspaper article: "The mayor is head of the flock, the bellwether provincials like to follow. Small-town mayors all like soccer and exceeding cost estimates. They are suspicious of gypsies and prefects. They share enthusiasm for the elderly and for one-way streets. They all cut ribbons and perform marriage ceremonies in the same kindly manner. The way they leave their commemorative wreaths is identically solemn, and in no matter what village the minute of silence always lasts just 45 seconds."

The position of mayor in the provinces is traditionally less a political opportunity than a form of service to the community by which one can prove one's enduring attachment, whatever one's successes elsewhere, to the place of one's birth or to one's adopted, and probably second, home.

In the French village where my wife and I have our second home, we have lived under four mayors in the past 20 years. We have watched their careers with the amused political detachment that probably only foreigners can afford. The benign two-decade rule of M Lamy (whom we nickname Mr Friendly, because he really is) was followed by the village doctor, Dr Perdu ("The Lost Doctor"). Poor Dr Perdu had a miserable time of it. Opposition to him within the municipal council was led by his next-door neighbour, the local chemist, a disappointed aspirant to the mayor's office whose political enmity was such that he even showed contempt for the medic's professional abilities.

Patients bringing their prescriptions to the chemist's pharmacy were as like as not to see them torn up in front of their eyes, with the furious exclamation that the doctor's diagnosis was all wrong as



How would you like to be president. Mr Mayor? Jacques Chirac, the mayor of Paris with his eye on the Elysée palace

usual. Dr Perdu gave up after his first four years and did not seek re-election, lumbering us with the chemist's man, a retired doctor from the north who, the chemist assured electors, had the dynamism to get the village moving again.

The new mayor was Dr Delorme. He quickly earned the nickname Vampire, because his dynamism knew few bounds. He plastered the village noticeboards with mayoral decrees pursuing vendettas against village shopkeepers who had upset him. He banned mopeds from every possible lane and alley. He introduced new street signs, including one to a church which was clearly visible and had been a ruin in any case for

400 years, and another three (in a village of 600 inhabitants) showing the way to "Centre Ville". Village was said that shortly we would have a "Boulevard Périphérique".

That did not happen, but instead the mayor laid a yellow-brick road past the local cross-roads. He closed the cinema, and he ordered the construction of a vast new *salle polyvalente*, or community hall to which, it was rumoured, he was anxious to see his name attached. Finally he proposed to knock down the two oldest houses in the village (despite the fact that the families that lived in them had been doing so more than half a century) in order to make a new ceremonial driveway to the *Mairie* (town hall).

The village had had enough. At the end of four years Dr Delorme was laid in his political grave. He had bequeathed the village residents a community debt fast approaching £2,000 per person. A Committee for the Salvation of the Village succeeded in persuading a Parisian banker with a holiday home in the village to become mayor. In Dr Delorme's place, happily the new mayor's name is Lemonnier, so we call him the moneyman and hope that his financial

expertise will get us out of trouble.

Since the decentralisation law of 1984 mayors have gained more independence from central government and have taken on financial and budgetary responsibilities which they are not always capable of handling. There is an annual exhibition and trade fair for mayors, *Mairie Expo*, which is intended to help them find what they need to make their term of office a success.

This year it was held in Cannes and was attended by nearly 6,000 mayors. They were shown electric vehicles and condom-vending machines to install in the public lavatories, machines to clean beaches, fireworks displays for their municipal fêtes, Christmas lights and municipal swimming-pools.

There are also awards of a *Marianne d'Or* to mayors of whose innovative ideas the

event's creator, Alain Trampoglieri, approves. Among this year's winners were an ecologically minded pop singer, Yves Duteil, who is the mayor of Ile Rousse in Corsica, and Genevieve Fustier, who has brought life back to a village in the Loire where only six families remained. There was also a Marianne for the elderly mayor of Saint-Paul-de-Vence on the Côte d'Azur, who had built a wax museum of local history to attract tourists.

To see a fine example of provincial mayoralty at its best I suggest a detour in Normandy to Mesnil-Durdent, the smallest community in the Pays de Caux, about 20 miles from Dieppe. The village *Mairie* is at present a small hut, only open one hour a week, but the village has been turned into a living botanical lesson. Around the bank of Mesnil-Durdent's lanes the individual varieties of wild plants are labelled with wooden plaques. Explanatory documentation and a guide is available (for FF15) from an honesty box at the *Mairie*. A municipal garden of great charm has been opened, planted entirely with native plants of the region. The new *Mairie* that is being built will also be an exhibition hall devoted to the area's flora. The mayor is, of course, a botanist.

## Properties of the week

FRANCE

WHAT YOU CAN GET FOR £25,000 TO £28,000

This renovated house (right) in the centre of the village of Causse, between Rocamadour and Figeac in the Lot is yours for £25,000 (including agency fees), through Property France: Portway, Wantage, Oxfordshire (0235 772211). But be prepared for a nine-hour drive from the Normandy ferry ports, even without road blocks.



Built in local "Quercy blanc" stone, with a steeply pitched roof curving gently to the eaves, the property is in a good state of repair, although it still needs some updating. It has a large ground floor living area with kitchen corner, two bedrooms, bathroom and WC upstairs, with room for loft

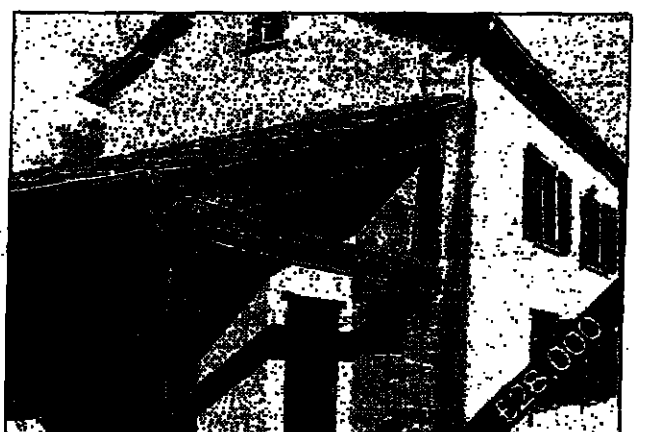
expansion — but no garden. Traditional features include a *grand crantou* (a huge walk-in fireplace), beamed ceilings, and a cave (wine cellar).



The same sort of money — £25,000 — will buy this converted medieval gatehouse (above) near Condom, in the Gers — a rich agricultural area close to the foothills of the Pyrenees, famous for its fiery Armagnac brandy. It is well off the beaten tourist track and a long drive from the nearest airport (two hours from Toulouse or Bordeaux); about 12 hours from Calais — or more, depending on traffic jams.

The old stone house, built inside the medieval arched village gate, has been restored and modernised, with new plumbing, wiring and central heating. It has a kitchen with exposed beams and a wood/coal burning stove; a living room with window seats and marble fireplace, and a door leading to a sidestreet. There are two bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs, plus an attic suitable for conversion. It comes with a small patch of land opposite, but outside the village walls.

UK agent: La Collection Française, 66 High Street, Manton, Marlborough, Wiltshire (0672 516266).



Fork out another £3,000 — £28,000 (including agency fees) — and you can be the proud owner of this pretty stone-built house (above) in a peaceful hamlet, a few miles north of Toulouse-Lautrec's Albi, the medieval cathedral city built in pink brick, bridging the River Tarn.

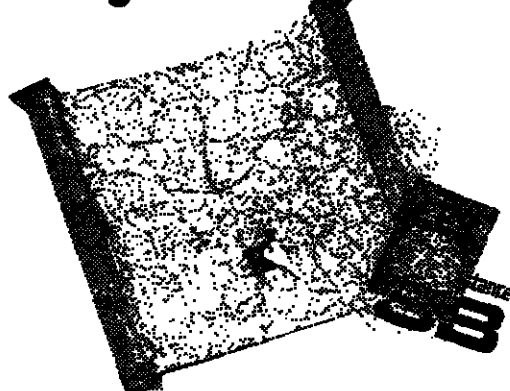
The property has been fully renovated and modernised throughout. It has a fitted kitchen and shower room with WC; a living room, with exposed stone walls, beamed ceilings and open fireplace; an entrance hall and staircase leading to two bedrooms with wooden floors.

The price includes an adjoining utility room, a large sun terrace and a lawned garden. The agent to contact is Roy French Properties, 44 Rectory Lane, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire (0923 270214).

The climate here is extreme: very hot in summer and cold in winter. Allow about 12 hours for the drive from the Normandy ports. Alternatively you can fly to Toulouse, with year-round flights from most UK airports.

CHERYL TAYLOR

## Ferry booked!



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## A kiss is not just a kiss

FRANCE

WHEN IN FRANCE



Some Gascons favour the three-way quickie. Which cheek you start on is a matter of choice. The natural tendency is to aim right. To avoid a collision this requires the woman who is to be kissed to offer her left cheek. But if she is disinclined to go against her dextrous nature simply to accommodate a passing male, she may veer to the same side, leading to male lips on female nose or a lips to lips confrontation, a gesture of intimacy inappropriate to a casual meeting.

Somewhat they work it out.

The Gascons are so practised, and speedy, in the art of greeting it is sometimes hard for the uninitiated onlooker to decide who does what to whom and in what order. It is fascinating to watch the gathering of a restaurant party. The women must be kissed by the men and kiss the other women: the men must kiss the women and shake hands with the other men. All this seems to take place in a skilfully choreographed movement which is all over in a matter of seconds. If the English went through the same elaborate performance they would still be at it when the waiter came round with the bill.

Why three kisses? There is a theory. It used to be two but then word came through from Paris that the male had been

raised. The latest generation of *gallanis* had taken to delivering two kisses on each cheek. Refusing to be slaves to Parisian fashion but equally not wanting to be seen to be oblivious to the latest trend, the provincials settled for three kisses as a compromise. The young favour the butterfly kiss, a mere brush of the lips delivered as a formality without the trace of a smile.

The handshake greeting is a single pump, enjoined by acquaintances whatever the circumstances or irrespective of the number of times that they have recently shared the ritual. I have seen two men meet in the street, shake hands, chat, part company and then, as one of them recalls a point he had forgotten to make, return to shake hands again before resuming the conversation.

The double-pump handshake denotes enthusiasm, as for a deal struck, while the treble pump is reserved for moments of great emotion, like a family reunion or when the notary reads the will.

Foreigners are expected to abide by the formalities. This is no great problem for the Germans and Dutch who know quite enough about

embarrassing when directed towards a Gascon, who is advancing with hand outstretched for the anticipated one-pump shake. Realising that he is dealing with a novice the polite Gascon will concede by raising his arm to return the wave at the precise moment as the Englishman silently acknowledging his *au faux pas* of the day, lowers his arm for the conventional greeting. The Gascon will then return his hand to waist level while the Englishman, grateful for the Gascon's tolerance, reverts to the wave position. This can go on for some time.

But it is the social linguistic that are most difficult to come to grips with. When, for instance, to switch from *vous* to *tu* is a cause of much heartache to even the longest serving expats. Children are *tu* but at what point do children become adults and, if you have seen them through puberty, can you go on, tu-ing them or must you change to the more formal address until such time as you feel relaxed enough to talk together as equals?

I ask without any hope of finding an answer. For the moment, I'm just happy that I

should discover the precise dividing line between *bonjour* and *bonsoir*. It must be somewhere late in the afternoon but for the life of me I can't quite put a time to it. If I judge the moment to be right to call out *bonsoir* I can be sure of getting a *bonjour* in return. But if I play safe, back will come the riposte, suitably overcorrected, "Bonsoir, Monsieur". I tend towards the conclusion that they do it just to show who's boss. Like *priorité d'arrêt*. Twenty years ago, when British drivers in France could still drive through the country without being confronted by angry road blocks, traffic signs on country roads were regarded as an affront to macho pride and *priorité d'arrêt* had a real and terrifying significance.

The naïve English driver, encouraged to believe that unless he was clearly instructed to the contrary he was entitled to proceed on his way unhindered, would suddenly find a French motorist roaring out of a sheltered side turning without so much as a warning foot. It is a curious fact that until quite recently there was no second-hand car market in southern France — curious until one reflects that no car lasted long enough to become second-hand.

BARRY TURNER



# Put your money where your mouth is

**Finding a dentist to give NHS treatment may soon be more difficult. Jeremy Laurance asks how patients will be hit by the present pay dispute**

From next week, finding a dentist to treat you on the NHS could be more difficult. The result of the British Dental Association's (BDA) ballot on industrial action, the first in its 112-year history, is expected on Monday. Early indications are that it will lead to much gnashing of teeth.

Already many dentists are taking unilateral action. At least a dozen local dental committees, including groups in West Sussex, north-Lancashire, Norfolk and the Isle of Wight, have voted to stop accepting new adult patients or to strike off existing ones, before the result of the national ballot is known. So anybody not already registered with a dentist would be advised to find one quickly.

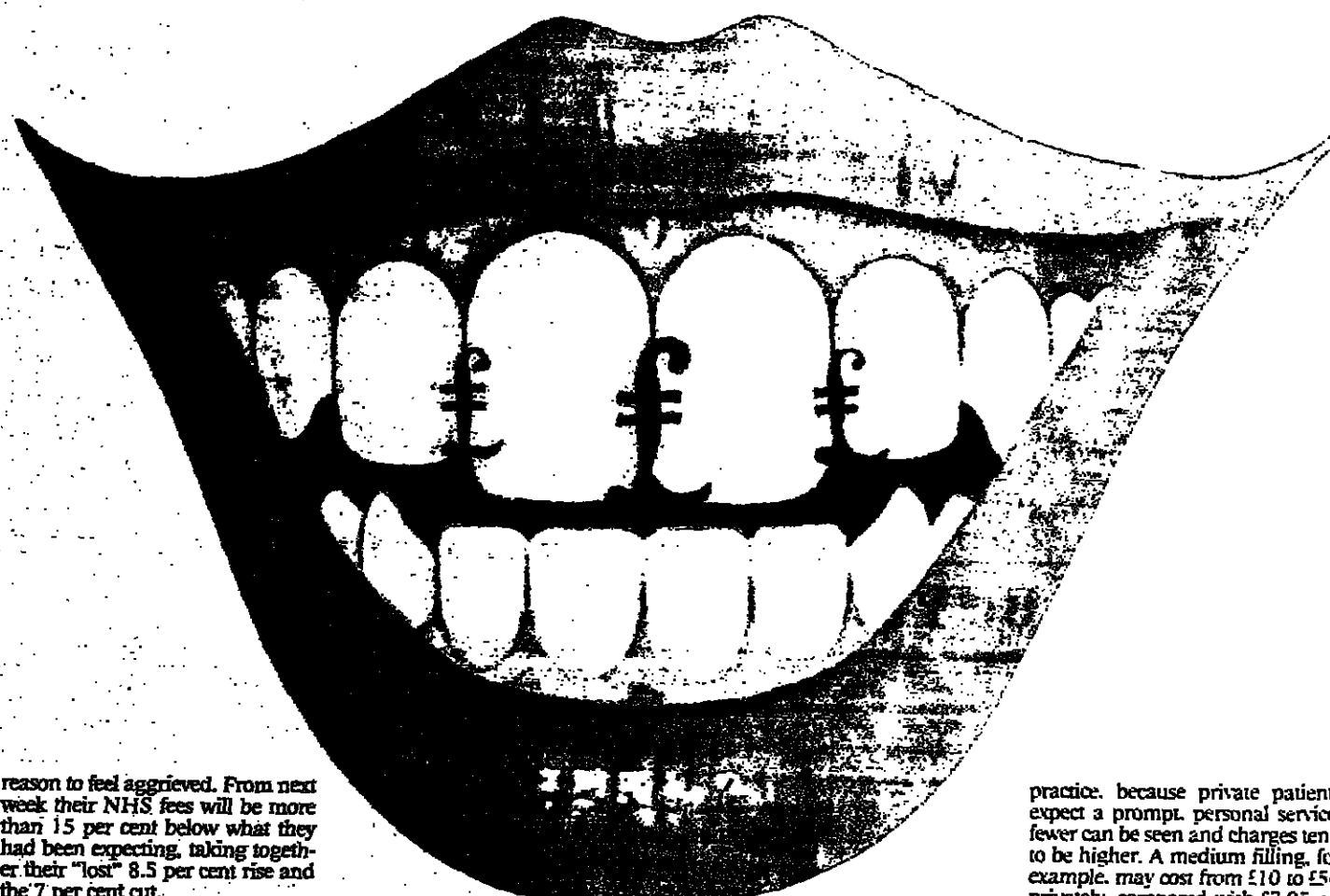
Even this may not be enough. The ballot papers, which have gone out to 16,000 BDA members, offer dentists three options, of which refusing new adult patients is the mildest. Others are to refuse new adult and child patients or — the most militant option — to strike off existing adult patients. The result of a similar ballot of the 3,000 members of the General Dental Practitioners' Association is expected the same day.

Patients without an NHS dentist have the choice of paying privately or applying to their local family health services authority, which is required to provide NHS dental treatment for all who want it.

The government recently reminded the authorities of their right to appoint salaried dentists who could take over the NHS work in the event of wholesale defections by existing dentists. However, as they would be paid at half average NHS earnings, which dentists anyway claim are too low, the authorities are unlikely to be overwhelmed with applicants.

The dispute that has led to the ballot is over pay. Last March the dentists' pay review body recommended an 8.5 per cent pay rise for dentists, well above the 5.5 per cent awarded to the doctors, in recognition of the "business difficulties" many were experiencing. The government has responded with a 7 per cent pay cut, to be implemented from next Wednesday. NHS charges to patients will fall by the same amount.

On the face of it, the dentists have



reason to feel aggrieved. From next week their NHS fees will be more than 15 per cent below what they had been expecting, taking together their "lost" 8.5 per cent rise and the 7 per cent cut.

However, most of a dentist's pay comes from fees for every filling or other treatment given, so their exact earnings depend on how much work they do. The pay review body intended that the average dentist should earn £35,815 after the 8.5 per cent rise, but health department figures, based on dentists' claims in the first quarter of the year, suggested that actual earnings were running much higher.

To bring them back to £35,815 would have required a 23 per cent cut in the fees, Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary claimed. Even after the 7 per cent cut, dentists are expected to earn more than £40,000 on average this year, she said, or about £5,000 more than the pay review body intended.

The dentists say the cut is unfair. On the introduction of their new contract in October 1990 they were paid for the first time to register patients, as family doctors do. The health department and the BDA estimated that 23 million patients would be registered in the first year and priced the contract accordingly.

In the event, nearly 30 million patients were signed up and the bill for treatment started to rocket. A third of dentists earned gross fees of more than £100,000 each last year, according to the health department. Half of this amount, on average, goes on the expense of running the practice.

The dentists argue that their increased productivity is being

rewarded with a pay cut. The contract was fairly priced, they say, but now the game has started, the health department is trying to move the goal posts.

A second, less convincing argument is that the increase in productivity is a one-off achievement, not to be repeated, linked with the introduction of the new contract. The health department should have waited to see what actual, as opposed to projected, earnings are this year before "clawing back" any excess, as has been normal practice in other years.

Dentists are also angry that the limit above which treatment requires prior authorisation by the Dental Practice Board has been reduced from £600 to £200, increasing their paperwork and causing delays for patients.

The real puzzle is why, when earnings are running 23 per cent higher than expected, so many dentists claim to be in financial difficulty. The answer is that the "average" dentist constantly cited by the health department and the dental associations is a myth.

The pay review body picked up the point in its report earlier this year. So widespread are the differences in working patterns, hours of work, age, earnings and business organisation "that it is almost impossible to identify an average dentist", the review body said.

Yet the fee level is set to deliver the intended income — £35,815 — to the average dentist with average

expenses. This "makes it impossible to tackle the problems of low income and low investment", which affect some dentists but not others, the report said.

The review body also noted that the payment system contains an in-built disincentive to invest.

Dentists who spend less on their practices enjoy a higher income at the expense of those who spend more because the expenses of all dentists are totalled and the average reimbursed. This is particularly hard on younger dentists who are starting out in practice with high mortgages but smaller patient lists.

The result is that many have opted to go private, especially in the South, where costs are higher and patients are better off.

The creeping privatisation of the dental service is worrying ministers, who were shocked by a health department survey in January showing that one in four dentists nationwide, and up to 70 per cent in parts of the South-East, were turning away NHS patients.

The attractions of private practice have grown as NHS patients now pay three-quarters of the cost of their treatment in dental charges. An average course of treatment on the NHS now costs £30, so a dentist has to ask only for an extra £10 and he or she can be free of the NHS with its bureaucracy and form-filling, and be no worse off. In

practice, because private patients expect a prompt, personal service, fewer can be seen and charges tend to be higher. A medium filling, for example, may cost from £10 to £50 privately, compared with £7.95 on the NHS. A crown would cost from £70 to £300 or more, compared with £56.25 on the NHS.

The dispute provides Mrs Bottomley with her first test. Having resisted Treasury demands for a 13 per cent fee cut, on the ground that it would hasten the exodus into private practice and push some dentists into bankruptcy, she is now bound to deliver a satisfactory result.

Whatever the outcome of the ballot, the drift to the private sector will be accelerated by the fee cut, except in places such as Bromley town in southeast London, where 96 per cent of paying adults — pregnant women and people on benefit are exempt from payment — are already treated privately.

Mrs Bottomley has promised reform of the dental pay system, which may include incentives to reward dentists who do the most NHS work. However, it is likely to be too little, too late.

In the longer term, the government may be happy to see the privatisation of dentistry as the work becomes increasingly cosmetic. Dental health has improved dramatically during the past 20 years, mainly thanks to fluoride toothpaste. Within a generation, fillings will be unknown in those under 25 and rare in those below 40, and experts predict that the world will need less than a quarter of the dentists it has today.

Fearing for their future, today's dentists may see a pay cut as the first grim sign of their impending unemployment.

## Pain second to none

Shingles does not kill, so science has been slow to provide relief for its many victims

The pain of shingles is second to none. "Abominable, indescribable" was how the pianist Arur Rubinstein put it. Sufferers are said to have included the prophet Job, who wrote, "Days of affliction have taken hold of me. The night racks my bones and the pain that gnaws at me takes no rest".

But shingles does not kill, so it has had less attention than it deserves. "It is desperately neglected," says Dr David Bowsher of the Pain Research Institute in Liverpool, who says that shingles is the single most important cause of persistent nerve pain. An initiative by Richard Perkin, an American businessman, who was appalled by the pain his 82-year old mother suffered, may change that. "I'd never seen her complain about anything," Mr Perkin says, "yet here she was in terrible pain and there wasn't anything, apparently, that I could do about it."

One reason for shingles' orphan status, Mr Perkin says, is that it can manifest itself in several ways. The tell-tale sign which no general practitioner should miss is a blistering rash, which extends like a belt around one side of the body, but this may not be the first symptom. Often there is numbness or tingling, or headaches may be the first warning sign. The cause is a virus, the same one that causes chickenpox, and victims tend to be old people.

To try to pull together information and help encourage research, Mr Perkin started the VZV Research Foundation, named after the varicella-zoster virus that causes chickenpox and shingles. He hopes the foundation will be able to raise money for research.

The virus, more often known as the herpes zoster virus in Britain, is the cause of the common childhood disease of chickenpox. The symptoms are mild in most children, although unpleasant in adults. When symptoms fade, the virus takes refuge in the nervous system, where it lies low, doing no obvious harm for years. So long as the immune system remains in good shape, the virus is overwhelmed by circulating antibodies before it can multiply. Problems arise when the immune system loses potency, either through advancing years or for some other reason. While almost everyone gets chickenpox, only about 15 per cent of the population will get shingles.

The proportion rises among the

old or others who are immunocompromised. In people aged over 80, the chances of getting shingles rise to about 50 per cent, and patients with AIDS or cancer are also much more likely to suffer. Those with leukaemia, Hodgkin's disease or other lymphomas are 20 to 100 times more likely to get shingles than the population in general.

In the UK, up to 200,000 cases a year are believed to occur. Symptoms usually subside in a few weeks, but an unlucky minority suffers from post-herpetic neuralgia, a condition that can last months or even years.

Jane Bagley is a widow in her eighties who developed shingles in March 1989. She was treated with acyclovir (Zovirax), an anti-viral drug which, given before skin lesions appear, shortens the course of the disease.

Mrs Bagley thinks the stress of her husband's death may have had something to do with her attack. There is anecdotal evidence that stress, perhaps through its effect on the immune system, can bring on the condition. In her case, the pain did not ease.

The only way Mrs Bagley can get comfort is by using two tubes a day of a proprietary cream called EMLA. This was prescribed by Dr Bowsher, who has tried electrical stimulation of the nerves, drugs, and

inserting a catheter into the fluid around the spinal cord and injecting morphine and other drugs. Improvement was temporary.

The best drugs, Dr Bowsher says, are amitriptyline and desipramine, which affect nerve pains. "I tell GPs that every patient over 60 diagnosed with shingles should be asked to return six weeks later," he says. "If they still have pain, they should be treated with amitriptyline, which will deal with 90 per cent of cases. Left longer, it becomes very difficult to treat."

The only possibility for prevention is an experimental vaccine developed in Japan for use against chickenpox. Results of a trial showed the vaccine provided protection against chickenpox, reducing the chances of shingles.

Too many GPs, Dr Bowsher says, simply hope the pain will go away. "We need a campaign among GPs and the public to increase awareness," he says. "Most doctors just don't know what to do."

NIGEL HAWKES

### Cutting out the middle woman

More health, over the page: Liz Gill on the hazards of hysterectomy

## Life looks up for mad professors

WHEN autism was first described in the 1940s, knowledge of the biochemistry of the brain, psychopharmacology, was so rudimentary that there was little scientific evidence to rebut the theory that autistic children rejected the world and took refuge in emotional isolation because they had been born to cold, detached women; the so-called "refrigerator" mother. Recent research has refuted much of this psychobabble and has shown that there is likely to be a pharmacological basis to the problem and that changes in the levels and function of the compound serotonin are part of this story.

Dr Christopher McDougle, an assistant professor of psychiatry at Yale University, treated autistic children with the 5HT re-uptake inhibitor fluvoxamine, Faverin, which alters serotonin levels in the nervous system. The results have been encouraging and in some cases dramatic, so much so that some of his patients have even

bought presents and written to their relatives.

Dr McDougle reasoned that if Faverin was beneficial to autistic children and also useful in the treatment of obsessive compulsive disorders, including, incidentally, the eating disorders anorexia nervosa and bulimia, it might also help patients with Asperger's syndrome.

People with Asperger's syndrome show many of the characteristics of autism but usually have better social relationships, and often have a good intellect. Children with Asperger's, like autistic children, are devoted to a strict routine, indulge in repetitive movements, such as the constant turning of a wheel, may sit for hours beside a tap,



**MEDICAL BRIEFING**  
**Dr Thomas Stuttaford**

lent, sometimes against themselves.

These rather strange, withdrawn little children will, as they grow up, show signs of becoming totally obsessed with some esoteric subject so that, in adolescence, the loners may distinguish themselves by becoming their school's greatest experts on, for instance, churchyard lichens, 16th century Spanish music, or the Serbo-Croat wars.

If of good intelligence, they later progress to becoming the archetypal remote, mad professor, rarely emerg-

ing from their study or laboratory and incapable of close relationships.

Dr McDougle has found that, when treated with Faverin, 50 per cent of his patients with Asperger's disease improved. They did not become the life and soul of the university parties but they joined social clubs, talked on subjects other than their own enthusiasms, took an interest in the opposite sex and had fewer episodes of aggressive behaviour.

Two even got married, though one had to date over the telephone so as to avoid eye contact. The other had a more direct and usual approach but he soon became divorced.

Dr McDougle's work has still to be published but it offers hope not only to the autistic, and those with very obvious Asperger's, but to all those with minor degrees of the syndrome who have escaped from the ordinary world by immersing themselves into little known depths of academia.

### Sniffing out crime

WE all smell, but we all smell differently. The differences are so slight that only a few people have a dog-like ability to know who has just left a room. It was reported from The Netherlands last week that research is now well advanced into analysing and recording these differences in smell so that forensic scientists may soon be able to recognise the smell print of a wrongdoer. A person's distinctive smell is due to the varying amounts of fatty acids in the sweat. The composition of the resulting cocktail can be altered if the patient does not wash and the sweat becomes rancid.

Pity the patients who suffer from a rare condition, fish odour syndrome, in which, however often they wash, they smell of stinking fish. The psycho-social problems induced have recently been re-

viewed in Mims magazine by Dr Riad Ayesh, of St Mary's Hospital, London. Patients with the syndrome, which is probably inherited, fail to metabolise trimethylamine, a chemical found in most fish, to an odourless compound. The intensity of the smell will vary slightly depending on diet but it is worse after eating eggs, soya beans, kidneys and marine fish. It is improved by taking the gut antibacterial drug metronidazole, Flagyl.



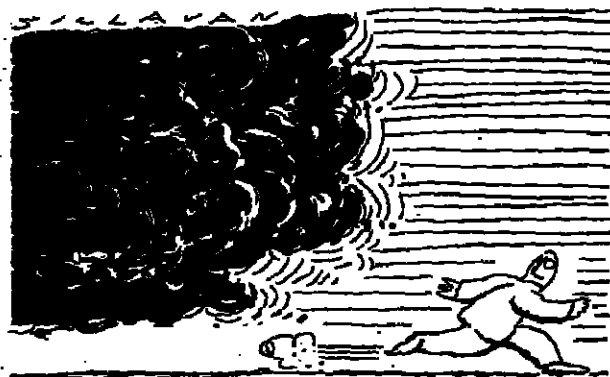
Fish: rotten luck for some

### A passing sadness

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) announced this week that it has evaluated research instigated at St Mary's Hospital, London, and pursued there for the past 15 years, and has accepted the hospital's view that "recurrent brief depression" is different from other forms of depression and a distinct disease in its own right.

Dr Stuart Montgomery, a senior lecturer in psychiatry at St Mary's, said that patients with recurrent brief depression experience repeated attacks of severe depression with all its usual symptoms of hopelessness, insomnia, mood changes and loss of interest in work and pleasurable activities.

Each attack lasts from a day or two to a fortnight. They may occur only very occasionally but in the worst cases 20 a



year have been reported. In between attacks the patient feels normal. So rapid is the change of mood that a patient who may feel suicidal one moment is jolly enough to go to a party a few hours later. In the past, patients have often been misdiagnosed as suffering from a border-line personality disorder, a mistake which is understandable as they are notorious for their impulsive behaviour including suicide attempts, or actual suicide.

Standard anti-depressant treatment does not help, but the use of neuroleptic drugs to achieve sedation has some benefit.

Patients at St Mary's are encouraged to adapt their lifestyle (for example, to take time off work and never make an important decision when depressed). Having recurrent brief depression does not prevent the person from also suffering from the more usual depressive illnesses.

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# Cutting out the middle woman

Hysterectomy can be a life-saver, but is sometimes insensitively applied, Liz Gill reports

Any man who has difficulty picturing the horror of a hysterectomy operation to discover she had been given a hysterectomy, should imagine himself regaining consciousness after a minor procedure and finding his testicles gone.

The comparison between the organs is often cited by Muriel Jackson, a nurse who herself had the operation four years ago when she was 43. Mrs Jackson is also information officer for the Hysterectomy Support Network, which explains to uncomprehending men just how emotionally attached a woman may be to her womb.

"Apart from the removal of a breast, a hysterectomy is probably the most emotional operation a woman can have," Mrs Jackson says. "A lot of women fear they will no longer be a woman."

**'A lot of women just don't get the support they need'**

For some women, the operation is a life-saver; for many, it is a life-enhancer, a liberator from years of pain and discomfort. For others, however, the cure can be as bad as the problem. A hysterectomy is performed every year in Britain, for a variety of reasons: cancer, prolapse, heavy irregular bleeding with or without pain, pelvic inflam-

matory disease, endometriosis (where the lining of the womb grows in other areas of the pelvis), backache, urinary and bowel problems, anaemia and fibroids (non-malignant growths of varying size and degree of symptoms). They may result from emergencies during surgery or childbirth.

Most hysterectomies involve the removal of the top third of the vagina, including the cervix as a precaution against cervical cancer, whatever the prime reason for the operation. Sometimes the ovaries and Fallopian tubes are also removed.

For some women, the operation is a life-saver; for many, it is a life-enhancer, a liberator from years of pain and discomfort. For others, however, the cure can be as bad as the problem. A hysterectomy is performed every year in Britain, for a variety of reasons: cancer, prolapse, heavy irregular bleeding with or without pain, pelvic inflam-

to the more serious: urinary problems, irritable bowel syndrome, problems with scar tissue and menopausal symptoms. There may be psychological repercussions, such as depression and the loss of libido and self-esteem.

The network gets about 3,000 calls a year. "Depression is the number one thing women complain of, and a lot of them have been given anti-depressants by their GPs," Mrs Jackson says. "But it is always best to help people before rather than after the operation. Preparation is half the battle. We don't believe in scare-mongering, but we try to be realistic about what someone is likely to feel and experience. You should also talk about things like hormone replacement therapy beforehand."

"The main problem, though, is that a lot of women just don't get the support they need. The majority have simply been told they've got to have a hysterectomy and that's it. They often don't even know the

reason. But unless it's a matter of life and death, a woman might prefer to live with some conditions. There is quite widespread and profound ignorance. I've even had women asking whether they will have their periods again or whether they can have a baby."

Many of the callers are men. "A lot of men should be counselled as well. Some are a bit unsympathetic about the emotional side, others are very worried. The biggest fear for women often comes the first time they make love afterwards, and if that goes wrong, it can put a great strain on the marriage."

Mrs Jackson does not believe that, unlike the situation in America, where the hysterectomy rate is more than double what it is in Britain, the operation is performed unnecessarily in the majority of cases. "But I have heard women say it has been presented to them as

being purely routine, little more than having a tooth out. Doctors may be acting from the best of motives, but they may be seeing it from only one perspective."

If the situation is not urgent a woman can ask to be monitored for six months, or she can seek a second opinion. She may also want to make sure she has explored any medical alternatives.

In recent years there have been more vaginal hysterectomies, where the uterus is removed through the vagina rather than the abdomen. Although the technique is not suitable in all cases—for instance, in situations where the uterus is greatly enlarged or when the woman has never had children—it has 760s have many advantages: earlier patient mobility, shorter convalescence, less post-operative discomfort and fewer risks of complications.

There is also growing use of a procedure known as endometrial

ablation to tackle heavy bleeding from an otherwise normal uterus, the most common reason for a hysterectomy, and smaller fibroids. This "burns off" the lining of the womb using either lasers, microwave energy or heat from an electric loop or ball. It needs highly trained practitioners and expensive equipment but it is a less drastic procedure involving only an overnight stay in hospital and the patient, who keeps her uterus, makes a more rapid recovery. Raquel Welch was its most famous patient in America and it is estimated that maybe 15,000 such operations are now performed every year in Britain.

Mr Victor Lewis, a consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist at Watford General Hospital and president of the British Society of Gynaecological Endoscopy, believes it is always worth a woman asking if the technique is suitable to her. But he does not believe

surgeons rush to perform hysterectomies anyway.

"I've never subscribed to this notion some people have that doctors want to do more operations. We'd rather be playing golf. There will always be the patient who has been over-treated but there will be others who should have had it done and haven't."

"I've heard all this stuff about women having great reservations about hysterectomy but I just don't believe it. If they were we'd be out of a job, whereas in fact women are queuing at the door."

"If patients are carefully selected and counselled the majority are delighted and wish they'd had it done before."

"Given the right indications hysterectomy is a super operation because it relieves pain and stops bleeding and the woman feels very much better."

Mrs Jackson would agree. "The idea that you are less of a woman is a complete fallacy. Besides, the pain and the bleeding will have been taken away, a woman can relax and be the woman she was before or wanted to be."

**'If patients are carefully counselled the majority are delighted'**

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# Yugo sales suffer from the civil war

**B**uying a car means computing the benefits against the risks that could go wrong. Rarely does a buyer need to worry about the state of world politics when selecting a model, but that is exactly what Yugo buyers have been doing in the past few months.

Roy Tyler has barely seen a customer for a new Yugo car in almost two months because the ripples of the civil war in the former Yugoslavia have spread to his garage at Great Barr in Birmingham.

Mr Tyler, sales manager at the Sunfild Motor Company, says the war and the trade embargo implemented by the United Nations has scared away even the hardest potential customer.

The trouble with the UN sanctions, he says, is that they are indiscriminate, penalising 160 United Kingdom dealers, their 1,500 staff and about 60,000 Yugo owners in this country.

The UN sanctions mean the freezing of assets of Yugoslavian companies abroad. Although Zastava GB, the independent importer based at Reading, Berkshire, was this week given the go-ahead to continue trading by the trade and industry department, the licence does not ease the company's immediate plight.

It cannot import cars from the factory in Serbia, nor can it bring in the components dealers need to service cars. The company is not allowed to send any payments back to the factory in Serbia nor can it re-

**Worried by the reports of shelling and sanctions, the public has steered clear of Yugoslavia's national car, says Kevin Eason**

ceive any shipments of cars or parts.

The nightly news of shelling and sanctions has simply scared customers away. Sales so far this year are down on average about 30 per cent across the country, some dealers say by 50 per cent. When you are already coping with the effects of recession, trying to deal with an international trade embargo which hits at the heart of your business but which is beyond your control saps your confidence.

Zastava has about 1,000 cars in stock, probably enough for the next three or four months with sales as poor as they are now. There is also about £750,000 worth of components stored ready for a long siege. In addition, dealers have been squirreling away parts which they thought they might need for just such a difficult time as this.

One advantage of the Yugo is that it is based largely around designs from Fiat. Major components such as the engine, gearbox and back axle can all be found from Fiat models while many other

components, such as brakes and even glass, can be sourced in Britain and Germany.

However, other parts such as bodywork come direct from Serbia. For example, Mr Tyler says he has been waiting six months for an indicator lens for a Sana model to arrive.

**'Customers watch the news and they are not stupid'**

That kind of delay hardly fills the Yugo owner with confidence and new customers who hear those sort of stories will undoubtedly be deterred. "Customers watch the news and they are not stupid," Mr Tyler says. "We are disheartened by what is going on but what can we do?"

Yugo grew like other Eastern European marques such as Skoda and Lada, during the 1980s as buyers recognised that they could have a new car complete with warranty for bargain basement prices. Even now, Yugo prices range between just £3,500 and £6,700.

The recession and the introduction of the poll tax hit traditional customers for Eastern European-produced cars harder than most.

Lada and Skoda may have suffered but neither has had to cope with the extra strain of enduring sanctions.

Michael Lee, Zastava GB's chief executive, is the man trying to keep the network together, although he admits that it is difficult, given that his business is at the mercy of a UN decision.

Keeping parts supply going is the most important job, ensuring that current Yugo drivers can remain mobile. Mr Lee is confident that that will happen but admits that everything depends on how long the conflict and the sanctions last.

"Members of the public here in the UK are nothing to do with what is happening in Yugoslavia," he says. "Sanctions are indiscriminate and making British car owners and dealers suffer does not help the cause at all."

"We are allowed to carry on by the DTI as a British company but we cannot have any contact with Serbia or Montenegro under the UN rules. Our funds are tied by what is going on."

Some dealers, such as J.D. Thompson of St Albans, however, refuse to be beaten. His company is among those scouring Europe for components and Mr Thompson promises that he will guarantee service for his customers, even if that means his garage workshop making parts by hand.

"We have spent millions of pounds on this business and I am not going to let it fail," he says. "If necessary, we will make the parts ourselves but we will look after our customers whatever happens."



Roy Tyler: "We are disheartened... but what can we do?"



And so farewell: Mrs Prendergast at the driver's wheel of her 1954 Consul "Janie" (pictured right)

## One careful lady owner

**P**arting was sweet sorrow for Susan Prendergast when she saw her Ford Consul driven away. Mrs Prendergast, a pensioner from east London, bought the little saloon in 1954 and the pair grew old gracefully together, Kevin Eason writes. The four-door Ford was primed and polished so that it was almost as immaculate on the day it was sold this week as it was on the day when Mrs Prendergast bought it.

Mrs Prendergast lined her little grey-coloured Ford, nicknamed "Janie", up against classic cars worth up to £70,000 at a Sotheby's sale in London.

Although there was a selection of exotic models on view, Sotheby's discovered that a pack of collectors had descended on the sale to look at

**Mrs Prendergast's Consul was a top draw at Sotheby's**



Mrs Prendergast's Consul. One man, who already owns two Consuls, travelled to the sale only to be outbid.

The pain of losing Janie was eased by the auction price of £1,800 — almost twice the £1,000 Mrs Prendergast had paid for the car new. "I was very sad to see her go," she said. "She is the only car I have ever had. I passed my test in her and I used to drive to and from work and make an occasional visit to see my sister in Somerset."

The Ford has, in fact, only covered 31,320 miles in the past 38 years, an annual average of 824 miles. The longest outing Mrs Prendergast ever took was visit her family in Wolverhampton.

With her eyesight failing, she kept Janie garaged over the past few years, turning the engine now and again to ensure that the car remained in working order, and keeping the red leather upholstery spick and span.

### ROADWISE

## Insurance battle

BMW has joined the growing list of manufacturers offering discount insurance deals in response to rapidly rising motor premiums. The benefits include a 5 per cent no claims discount, monthly repayments, fixed premiums for six months unless claims exceed two in three years and free recovery after an accident. There is also free car hire for three weeks after an accident or if the car, fitted with a BMW alarm, is stolen.

### No red flag

RUDYARD Kipling was well known to be a motoring enthusiast. Indeed he put together a collection of poems around the theme of motoring at the turn of the century, often parodying other writers and poets. His Wordsworth pastiche, for example, was the tale of *The Idiot Boy*, with the words:

He wandered down the mountain grade  
Beyond the speed assigned.  
A youth whom Justice often stayed  
And generally fined.

The typescript of the collection, including Kipling's own handwritten revisions, goes on sale at Sotheby's on July 21. The expected price is £1,500-£2,000.

### Alfa beater

ALFA Romeo this week introduced its new 155 model to the UK market after a £350 million development programme which used 400 prototypes over 4 million miles. The five model line-up starts with a 1.6-litre Twin Spark at £13,700, rising to the luxurious top of the range 155 2.5 V6 at £19,050 on the road, which features electric sunroof, power steering, anti-lock brakes, electrically heated front seats and even sun blinds.

### Ranging out

THE already luxurious Range Rover is to become even more exclusive with a limited edition of 150 cars available this week. The model gets five-spoke alloy wheels, four-speed automatic transmission, air-conditioning and compact disc player for £31,500.

### Belt up in the back

BEFORE you set out for France this year, remember that children under the age of ten must by law wear seat belts in the rear. More than 150 under-tens were killed and another 1,000 seriously injured on French roads last year.

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## Calculating compensation for damage caused by EEC institutions

**Mulder and Others v Council and Commission**  
Joined Cases C-104/89 and C-37/90

Before O. Due, President and Judges F. A. Schockweiler, F. Grevsser, J. G. Kapteyn, G. F. Mancini, C. N. Kaloupek, J. C. Moitinho de Almeida, G. C. Rodriguez Iglesias, M. Diez de Velasco and M. Zuleeg  
Advocate General W. Van Gerven (Opinion January 28, 1992)  
Judgment May 19

In making good any damage caused by its institutions in the performance of their duties, the Community was to take account of the loss of earnings suffered by the applicants, consisting in the difference between, on the one hand, the income which they would have obtained in the normal course of events and, on the other hand, the income which they actually obtained, plus any income which they obtained or could have obtained during the relevant period from any replacement activities.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held in an interlocutory judgment in proceedings brought by milk producers for compensation for damage suffered as a result of the application of Community regulations in the dairy sector.

The applicants had brought an action against the European Economic Community under article 178 and the second paragraph of article 215 of the EEC Treaty for compensation for the damage suffered as a result of the application of Council Regulation (EEC) No 857/84 of March 31, 1984 adopting general rules for the application of the levy referred to in article 5c of Regulation (EEC) No 804/68 in the milk and milk products sector (OJ 1984 L 90 p.13) as supplemented by Commission Regulation No 1317/84 of May 16, 1984 laying down rules for the application of the additional levy referred to in article 5c of Regulation (EEC) No 804/68 (OJ 1984 L 132 p.11), and as a result of the application of Council Regulation (EEC) No 764/89 of March 20, 1989 amending Regulation (EEC) No 857/84 (OJ 1989 L 84 p.2).

In accordance with undertakings given pursuant to Council Regulation (EEC) No 1078/77 of May 17, 1977 introducing a system of premiums for the non-marketing of milk and milk products and for the conversion of dairy herds (OJ 1977 L 131 p.1) farmers in The Netherlands and in the Federal Republic of Germany, had delivered neither milk nor dairy products from their farms for a five-year period, including the 1983 calendar year, which was subsequently adopted by The Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany as the reference year for the purposes of the system of the additional levy on milk.

Applications for the allocation of a reference quantity which they made on the expiry of the non-marketing period were rejected by The Netherlands and the German authorities on the ground that they had not made deliveries of milk during the reference year. It was not until after Regulation No 764/89 came into force that they had been allocated provisional special reference quantities under article 3a of Regulation No 857/84, as amended by Regulation No 764/89.

In its judgments in Case 120/86 *Mulder v Minister van Landbouw en Visserij* (1988) ECR 2321 and Case 170/86 *van Deetzen v Hauptzollamt Hamburg-Jonas* (1988) ECR 2355 (The Times May 23, 1988), the Court had declared those rules invalid on the ground that they were in breach of the principle of the protection of legitimate expectation in so far as they did not provide for the allocation of such a quantity.

Following those judgments, the Council adopted on March 20, 1989 Regulation No 764/89, which inserted a new article 3a in Regulation No 857/84. That article provided essentially that milk producers who, pursuant to an undertaking given under Regulation No 1078/77, had not delivered milk during the reference year were to receive, in certain circumstances, a special reference quantity equal to 60 per cent of the quantity of milk delivered or the quantity of milk equivalent sold by the producer during the twelve months preceding the month in which the application for the non-marketing or conversion premium had been made.

That 60 per cent rule, too, was declared invalid by the Court for being in breach of the principle of the protection of legitimate expectations on the ground that the application to the producers covered by article 3a of Regulation No 857/84, as amended, of a reduction of 40 per cent which, far from being representative of the rates applicable to the producers covered by article 2, was more than double the highest total of such rates, must be regarded as a restriction which specifically affected the first-mentioned category of producers by the very reason of their undertaking as to non-marketing or conversion (Case C-189/89 *Spagl v Hauptzollamt Rosenheim* (1990) ECR I-4539) and Case C-217/89 *Pastanter v Hauptzollamt Bad Reichenhall* (1990) ECR I-4585).

In its judgment, the Court of Justice of the European Communities ruled as follows:

The second paragraph of article 215 of the Treaty provided that, in

the case of non-contractual liability, the Community, in accordance with the general principles common to the laws of the member states, was to make good any damage caused by its institutions in the performance of their duties.

The scope of that provision had been clarified in the sense that the Community did not incur liability on account of a legislative measure involving choices of economic policy unless a sufficiently serious breach of a superior rule of law for the protection of the individual had occurred.

More specifically, in a legislative field such as the one in question, which was characterised by the exercise of a wide discretion essential for the implementation of the common agricultural policy, the Community could not incur liability unless its institution had manifestly and gravely disregarded the limits on the exercise of its powers.

The Court had also consistently held that, in order for the Community to incur non-contractual liability, the damage alleged had to go beyond the bounds of the normal economic risks inherent in the activities in the sector concerned.

Those conditions had been fulfilled in the case of Regulation No 857/84, as supplemented by Regulation No 1317/84. As the Court had held in *Mulder* and *van Deetzen*, those regulations had been adopted in breach of the principle of the protection of legitimate expectation, which was a general and superior principle of Community law for the protection of the individual.

Second, in so far as it failed completely, without invoking any higher public interest, to take account of the specific situation of a clearly defined group of economic agents, namely producers who, pursuant to an undertaking given under Regulation No 1078/77, delivered no milk during the reference year, the Community legislature had manifestly and gravely disregarded the limits of its discretionary power, thereby committing a sufficiently serious breach of a superior rule of law.

That breach was all the more obvious because the total and permanent exclusion of the producers concerned from the allocation of a reference quantity, which in fact prevented them from resuming the marketing of milk when their non-marketing or conversion undertaking expired, could not be regarded as being foreseeable or as falling within the bounds of the normal economic risks inherent in producing milk.

In contrast, contrary to the applicants' assertions, the Community could not incur liability on account of the fact that Regulation No 764/89 introduced the 60 per cent rule.

Admittedly, that rule also infringed the legitimate expectation

of the producers concerned with regard to the limited nature of their non-marketing or conversion undertaking, as the Court had held in *Spagl* and *Pastanter*. However, the breach of the principle of the protection of legitimate expectation which was held to exist could not be described as being sufficiently serious within the meaning of the case-law on the non-contractual liability of the Community.

Second, it had to be observed that, by adopting Regulation No 764/89 following the judgments in *Mulder* and *van Deetzen*, the Community legislature had made an economic policy choice with regard to the manner in which it was necessary to implement the principles set out in those judgments while taking account of a higher public interest, without manifestly and gravely disregarding the limits of its discretionary power in that area.

**The Damage**  
With regard to the evaluation of the damage which had to be regarded as resulting from the application of the 1984 rules, all the applicants had applied for the allocation of a reference quantity under the additional levy scheme before their non-marketing undertakings expired, and resumed the marketing of milk at the latest immediately after they were

granted a special reference quantity under Regulation No 764/89. Accordingly, they had manifested their intention to resume milk production, with the result that the loss of income from milk deliveries could not be regarded as being the consequence of the applicants' freely deciding to give up milk production.

As regarded the extent of the damage which the Community had to make good, in the absence of particular circumstances warranting a different assessment, account was to be taken of the loss of earnings consisting in the difference between, on the one hand, the income which the applicants would have obtained in the normal course of events from the milk deliveries which they would have made if, during the period between April 1, 1984, the date of entry into force of Regulation No 857/84, and March 29, 1989, the date of entry into force of Regulation No 764/89, they had obtained the reference quantities to which they were entitled and, on the other hand, the income which they actually obtained from milk deliveries made during that period in the absence of any reference quantity, plus any income which they obtained, or could have obtained, during that period from any replacement activities.

As far as concerned the reference

quantities to which the applicants were entitled during the period in question, account had to be taken, where the applicants made no milk deliveries during the reference year, of the quantity of milk which they delivered during a representative period prior to their non-marketing period, such as the quantity used as the basis for calculating the non-marketing premium.

The basis which was to be taken for calculating the income which the applicants would have received in the normal course of events if they had made milk deliveries corresponding to the reference quantities to which they were entitled was the profitability of a farm representative of the type of farm run by each of the applicants, it being understood that account could be taken in that regard of the reduced profitability generally shown by such a farm during the period when milk production was started up.

As regarded income from any replacement activities which was to be deducted from the hypothetical income referred to above, it was to be noted that that income had to be taken to include not only that which the applicants actually obtained from replacement activities, but also that income which they could have obtained had they reasonably engaged in such activities.

That conclusion had to be reached in the light of a general principle common to the legal systems of the member states to the effect that the injured party had to show reasonable diligence in limiting the extent of his loss or risk having to bear the damage himself.

Any operating losses incurred by the applicants in carrying out such a replacement activity could not be attributed to the Community, since the origin of such losses did not lie in the effects of the Community rules.

It followed that the amount of compensation payable by the Community had to correspond to the damage which it caused.

**Interest**  
As the Court had consistently held, the amount of compensation due had to be subject to interest as from the date of the judgment establishing the obligation to make good the damage. The rate of interest which it was a proper to apply was 8 per cent a year, provided that that rate did not exceed the rate claimed in the forms of order sought in the applications.

It followed that in Case C-104/89 the rate of 8 per cent a year claimed should be applied and in Case C-37/90 the rate of 7 per cent a year, in accordance with the form of order sought in the application.

On those grounds, the Court, as an interlocutory decision

1 Ordered the defendants to make good the damage suffered by the applicants as a result of the application of Council Regulation (EEC) No 857/84 of March 31, 1984, as supplemented by Commission Regulation (EEC) No 1317/84 of May 16, 1984 in so far as those regulations did not provide for the allocation of a reference quantity to producers who, pursuant to an undertaking given under Council Regulation (EEC) No 1078/77 of May 17, 1977, did not deliver any milk during the reference year adopted by the member state concerned;

2 Ordered that interest at the annual rate of 8 per cent in Case C-104/89 and at 7 per cent in Case C-37/90 should be payable on the amounts of compensation as from the date of this judgment;

3 For the rest, dismissed the applications;

4 Ordered the parties to inform the Court within twelve months from the date of delivery of the judgment of the amounts of damages payable arrived at by agreement;

5 Ordered that, in the absence of agreement, the parties should transmit to the Court within the same period a statement of their views with supporting figures;

6 Reserved the costs.

### Law Report July 3 1992 Queen's Bench Division

## Contempt to interfere with ship sale

**The Cerro Colorado**  
Before Mr Justice Sheen  
[Judgment June 29]

An order by the Admiralty Court that a vessel be appraised and sold by the Admiralty Marshal meant that the ship would be sold free of all encumbrances and liens and it was a contempt of court to interfere with the sale in an advertisement or otherwise stating that any buyer of the vessel would be responsible for monies owing to the crew.

Mr Justice Sheen so held in the Admiralty Court of the Queen's Bench Division in an application by the Admiralty Marshal for further directions relating to the sale of the tanker, the *Cerro Colorado*.

Mr Nigel Teare, QC, for the Admiralty Marshal; Mr Angus Glenzie, QC, for the plaintiffs, the Norske Bank AS.

MR JUSTICE SHEEN said that the plaintiff bank had lent a substantial sum of money to the owners of the *Cerro Colorado* which was secured by mortgage upon the ship. On April 13, 1992

the court gave judgment for the bank for US\$26,014,308.89. In execution of the judgment, the court ordered that the vessel be appraised and sold by the Admiralty Marshal.

On March 6, 1992, the master and crew, through their unions, requested the entry of a caveat against the release of the ship claiming a right in action *in rem* against the ship for wages unpaid since January 1, 1992 and for severance pay amounting to US\$3,000,000 plus interest and costs.

However, the master and crew had not issued a writ *in rem* until they obtained a judgment *in rem* had no right enforceable against the ship or against the proceeds of sale.

On June 10, *Lloyd's List* published an advertisement referring to the forthcoming sale of the *Cerro Colorado* which stated that the sale was opposed by the Spanish trade unions and that the vessel was encumbered by a judgment of the Spanish courts awarding the workers 700 million pesetas which was a privilege rank debt and the enforcement of which would remain prevailing notwithstanding any sale.

On the following day on the front page of *Lloyd's List* there was an article by the paper's industrial correspondent headed "Tanker sale warning". The effect of the article would be to deter purchasers and reduce the price of the vessel.

Because of those publications the Admiralty Marshal had had to postpone the date for offers. It was costing about £10,000 a week to keep the ship under arrest.

The Spanish Embassy had sent a note *verbalis* to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office stating that those responsible for the sale should convey to potential purchasers that the *Cerro Colorado* was encumbered and the amount had been registered in the Spanish Register of Ships at Huelva in order to bind third parties.

Following questions by the Admiralty Marshal, the Consul General for Spain replied that Spain

would not recognise the authorisation for the sale of the ship by the British authorities after the order of the British court without an undertaking by the purchaser to guarantee the full payment of the monies owed to the crew.

The Spanish court did not have the vessel within its custody when making the orders and the order did not appear to be related to proceedings *in rem*.

On December 8, 1953, Spain had ratified the International Convention for the unification of certain rules relating to the arrest of seagoing ships which was signed in Brussels on May 10, 1952.

By article 7 of the Convention, the courts of the country in which the arrest was made had jurisdiction to determine the case on its merits. The jurisdiction was recognised by all the countries which had ratified or acceded to the Convention.

It was clear beyond doubt that the Admiralty Marshal selling a vessel by order of the Admiralty

Court gave the purchaser of the vessel a title free from all liens and encumbrances.

His Lordship expressed the hope that the Spanish court would recognise the decrees made by the Admiralty Court as a matter of comity.

The advertisement and the article were a contempt of court as they tended to interfere with the administration of justice.

It was in the interest of all the parties that the sale of the *Cerro Colorado* by the Admiralty Marshal should achieve the full market price.

No action would be taken in respect of the article or advertisement but any repetition would be regarded as a serious contempt.

In order to prevent delay the court had ordered the master and crew, if they wished to make a claim *in rem* against the *Cerro Colorado* or the proceeds of sale, to commence proceedings within 28 days.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Watson Farley & Williams.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS



## LIFE &amp; TIMES FRIDAY JULY 3 1992

CHANNEL 4

- 9.25 **The Channel Four Daily (309469):**
- 9.25 **Elly and Jojo.** Adventures of schoolboy with a girl ghost as a friend (n) (7173357)
- 9.55 **The Henderson Kids.** Australian family drama series (r) (2971680).
- 10.20 **Film: Bank Holiday (1938, B/W).**
10. CHOICE: Outside the bag of George Formby and Gracie Fields, the British cinema of the 1930s rarely got near to the life of ordinary people and when it did so the result was often glib and patronising. Bank Holiday was an exception, a funny, affectionate and well-observed study of a group of characters on a bank holiday, trip to Brighton. Numbly, the first of the film is down for an affair with a wealthy Miss Wilkins but cannot forget John Lodge, whose wife has died in childbirth. Wally Patch and Kathleen Harrison feature as a cockney couple with their unruly children and Rene Ray plays a social London beauty queen. The film has been made a bit of a Lockwood, who rarely appears here - fresh and attractive and energetic, and was very early success for the director Carol Reed, of The Third Man and Odd Man Out (7591253)
- 12.00 **The Parliament Programme** presented by Anne Perkins (98757)
- 12.30 **Noah's Ark.** A look at one of the bridge of the Marnu National Park in the equatorial rain forest (r) (57528)
- 1.00 **Seaside Street.** A school learning series (r) (45233).
- 1.00 **I Love Lucy (b/w).** Vintage domestic comedy (66370651).
- 2.25 **Channel 4 Racing from Sandown Park.** Brough Scott introduces live coverage of the 2.35, 3.10, 3.45 and 4.15 races (27425406).
- 4.30 **Countdown.** Words and numbers game (s) (48)
- 5.00 **Secret History: Deep Sleep.** A documentary investigating the controversial 'lost' of the 19th century (r) (Teletext) (7777)
- 6.00 **Blossom.** Comedy series starring Mayim Bialik as a teenage girl living in an otherwise all-male Los Angeles household (s) (41)
- 6.30 **Happy Days.** Nostalgic high school comedy series set in 1950s, Milwaukee. (Teletext) (93)
- 7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Jon Snow and Shahnaz Pakruwan (Teletext) Weather (2050)
- 7.50 **First Reaction.** Edward Pearce on Lady Thatcher's Salute to Democracy (738131)
- 8.00 **Brookside.** Suburban Merseyside soap. (Teletext) (5154)
- 8.30 **The Music Game.** Tony Slatery presides over the all-tastes music quiz. Tonight's panel is Lucie Skeaping, Ray Presley and Kate Stables (856)
- 9.00 **Cheers.** Comedy series about the patrons and staff of a popular Boston watering hole (r) (Teletext) (5680)
- 9.30 **Garden Club.** The last programme of the series comes from Leicester where Roy Lancaster and Matthew Biggs look at some gardens within a garden, unusual herbaria and a school's roof garden (Teletext) (77864)
- 10.00 **Roseanne.** Blue-collar comedy starring Roseanne Arnold and John Goodman. (Teletext) (s) (48226)



**House guests: David Frost and Loyd Grossman (7.00pm)**

- 7.00 **Through the Keyhole.** Another chance to glimpse the lifestyles of the rich and famous. With David Frost and Lord Grossman. The guests are Chris Tarrant, Lisa Aziz and Alan Titchmarsh. (s) (2864)
- 7.30 **Coronation Street.** (Oracle) (35)
- 8.00 **Film: Raise the Titanic!** (1980) starring Jason Robards, Richard Jordan and Alec Guinness. Tedious version of the best-seller about the attempts to salvage the sunken liner. Described by some as a disaster of the same magnitude as the original sinking. Directed by Jerry Jameson. (Oracle) (4796)
- 9.00 **News at Ten.** Julia Somerville and Alastair Stewart are the new faces of the evening. The first anniversary of the first News at Ten which was read by Andrew Gardner and Alastair Burnet. (Oracle) Weather (655067) 10.35 **LWT News** and weather (649070)
- 9.40 **Film: Yanks** (1979). John Schlesinger's warm-hearted study of romantic attachments between American troops and local women in wartime Lancashire. With Vanessa Redgrave, Richard Gere and Lisa Eichhorn and a screenplay by Colin Welland (73636970)
- 11.10 **Rescue 911.** More stories of real-life heroics involving the United States Emergency Services. (390443)
- 12.00 **American Gladiators.** Tests of strength and ingenuity (S) (554742)
- 12.35 **CinemAttractors.** Charlie Tuna with the latest movie news from America (19268723)
- 3.35 **Raw Power.** Rock videos (s) (2558487)
- 5.35 **Burke's Law: Who Killed Billy Jo?** (p/w). Gene Barry stars as the well-loved Beverly Hills cop in this vintage detective series. Also in this episode are Howard Duff, Phil Harris, Ida Lupino and Cesar Romero. (390182)
- 5.30 **TDI Movie Night** with Tim Neilson (841811). Ends at 6.00

**Sketchy humour: Norman Pace and Gareth Hale (10.30pm)**

**0.30 Hale & Pace.** The first of a series of comedy sketches first seen on TV (15154)

**1.00 A Stab in the Dark.** A sideways look at the week's news by David Baddiel, Michael Gao and Tracy Marlow (s) (7425)

**1.30 First The Reckless Moment (1949, b/w)**

● CHOICE: Max Ophuls was one of the cinema's supreme stylists, with a flair for lifting the most banal material. In the hands of another director The Reckless Moment might have been just another melodrama. Ophuls made it special. It is a tale of crime and blackmail, with Joan Bennett as a well-heeled housewife whose equilibrium is shattered when her daughter (Geraldine Brooks) starts an affair with an older man. After a fight the man is accidentally killed and as Bennett tries to cover up the death she exposes herself to a blackmailer, played by James Mason. The Mason-Bennett relationship, which becomes central to the film, is explored with depth and sympathy and Ophuls, helped by his cameraman Burnett Guffey, enhances the story with careful use of the Californian small-town locations (22390)

**1.00am Twilight Zone: The Trouble with Temptations (b/w).** A tale of

## SW

[illegible]

10th Anniversary (6851242) 2.50  
 James Kerr (4205076) 6.00 Northern Life  
 6.38-7.00 Up Country (51) 10.40 Point  
 Order (768574) 11.10 Bergsboro  
 0777) 10.30 Film: Where Does It Hurt?  
 1159) 2.35 Cinema Attractions (3556839)  
 10th Later Hours (88967177)

**5.00am** Shipping Forecast 6.00  
News Briefing 6.10 Farming  
Today 6.25 Froyer's Day  
with the Rev Robert Paterson  
7.30, Today, at 6.30, 7.00,  
7.50, 8.00, 8.30 News 6.55  
7.20, 7.40, 7.55, 8.00  
Parliament 6.58 Weather  
**7.00 News**  
**7.05** Lawless Island Discs: Sue  
Lawley's getaway Day: The  
fashion designer Vivienne  
Westwood (S) 7.15  
**7.45** Football, with Chris Dunkley  
10-10.30 News: Hullo Motor  
Follies (PM only)  
**8.00** News: A lead double  
leave-taking today – farewell  
to the carefree motorway days  
of the 1920s when a road was  
not just a road but an  
approach to a different life,  
and farewell to Harry  
Thompson's funny car and  
touching scenes that have  
turned back the clock to a  
time when the motor-car's  
engine was (briefly) the

**3.00 Special Assignment**  
**3.30** Bookshelf: Nigel Forde  
considers the writing talent of  
the biographer and travel  
novelist Muriel Sparg, while  
Nigel Williams talks about his new  
comic novel, They Came from  
Switzerland, and Kate Jones picks  
the best of this summer's  
paperbacks (S)  
**4.00 News**  
**4.05** The Antelope visits the Royal  
Academy's retrospective of the  
Impressionist painter Alfred  
Staley; takes to Peter Daines  
about his novel, South  
Country, and meets the  
conductor Richard Hickox (S)  
**4.15** Star Story: The Transport  
Office, by James Thurley.  
Read by Paul Daneman (I)  
**5.00 PM** with Eddie Mellor and Frank  
Parker 5.15, 5.45, 6.15  
Parliament 5.55 Weather  
**6.00 Six O'Clock News**  
**6.30** Going Places: Janet Trewn  
presents the transport  
magazine  
**7.00 News**

|       |                                                      |       |                                   |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|
| 7.48  | Heather Urrini, When some of the people of the world | 7.20  | Woman's Hour (LW only) (r)        |
| 8.05  | your questions? Jonathan                             | 8.25  | any Questions? Jonathan           |
|       | Dunham is joined by                                  |       | Ascoli, Berkshire, by Bryan       |
|       | Scott, shadow environment                            |       | Sec. Simon                        |
|       | chairman of W H Smith; Peter                         |       | Lilly, social security secretary, |
|       | and Westminster,                                     |       | director, National Council for    |
|       | Voluntary Organisations                              |       |                                   |
|       | 8.50 Law in Action, with Marcel                      |       |                                   |
|       | 9.15 Kaleidoscope (r)                                |       |                                   |
| 9.45  | Letter from America by                               | 9.58  | Weather                           |
| 10.00 | The World Tonight                                    | 10.00 | The World Tonight                 |
|       | Richard Kershaw (s)                                  |       |                                   |
| 10.45 | A Book at Bedtime: The Way                           |       |                                   |
|       | of a Fleeth, by Sarah Weller.                        |       |                                   |
|       | Richard Leach reads the fifth                        |       |                                   |
|       | of 15 parts                                          |       |                                   |
|       | 11.00 The Ending: A satirical                        |       |                                   |
|       | review of the news (s)                               |       |                                   |
| 11.25 | The Financial Week, with                             |       |                                   |
|       | Heather Payton                                       |       |                                   |
| 11.45 | News at Ten in Parliament                            |       |                                   |
| 12.00 | 12.45 News, and 12.27                                |       |                                   |
|       | Weather 12.33 Shipping                               |       |                                   |
|       | Forecast 12.43 World                                 |       |                                   |

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7.00 German Features 7.54 News in German 8.00 World News 8.05 Outlook 8.30 Europe Tonight 8.30 World News 9.05 The World Today 9.25 Words of Faith 8.30 Science in Action 10.00 Newsround 11.00 News 11.00 News about Britain 11.15 People and Politics 11.45 Sports Roundup 12.00 News 12.05 Sport World Business Report 12.15 World News 12.30 Newsround 1.00 Newsround 1.30 From the Weeklies 1.45 Recording of the Week 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Seating Stars 2.45 Jazz and Then 3.00 Newsround 3.30 People and Politics 4.00 News 4.05 Words of Faith 4.15 Sports Roundup

(Sonata in A, Op 12 No 2); Schubert (Sonatina in A major, D 385)

Excerpts (r)  
1.00-2.25 Night School (except in Scotland: as Radio 5 at 9pm)

**FREQUENCIES:** Radio 1: 105.8kHz/275m; 108.9kHz/275m; FM-97.6-99.8. Radio 2: FM-89.5-90.2; Radio 3: FM-90.2-92.74; Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m; FM-92.74-94.1; Radio 5: 603kHz/433m; 90.8kHz/230m; 120C: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. Capital: 1548kHz/194m; Radio 6: 95.8kHz; GLR: 1458kHz/260m; FM 94.9; World Service: MW 648kHz/463m.

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